Bengaluru Wednesday, February 4, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 35 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Delhi Capitals to meet RCB in WPL final

Jemimah, Lizelle star in 7-wicket win over Gujarat Giants

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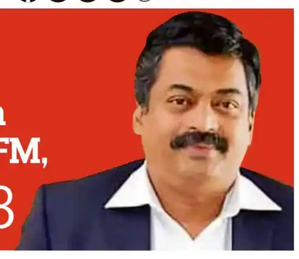
State

CJ Roy death: Decision on judicial inquiry lies with FM, says Parameshwara P.3



World

Clinton agree to testify in Epstein investigation P.11

State

22 Bidar kids sick after mid-day meal P.5

Nation

Wings of 2 planes collide in Mumbai P.6

US trade deal almost done; agri, dairy interests safe, says Goyal

TARIFF CUT: Pact details yet to be finalised, clarifies minister

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A day after US President Donald Trump announced that India and the US have agreed to a trade deal, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the agreement is in its final stages of detailing and reiterated that interests of sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy would be protected.

"Today 140 crore Indians are celebrating a trade deal, which is under final stages of detailing between the negotiating teams of both countries," Goyal told reporters.

He said a joint statement would be issued by the two countries after finalisation of the details.

Amid political slugfest over Trump's claim regarding India agreeing to cut tariffs on American products to zero, Goyal emphasised that New Delhi will protect the interests of its farmers.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump on Monday announced that India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which US will cut tariffs on Indian goods to 18% while India will reduce "tariff and non-tariff barriers against the US to zero".

The announcement was made following a phone call between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

US Secretary for Agriculture Brooke Rollins indicated that India has agreed to allow import of American agricultural goods.

"The new US-India deal will export more American farm products to India's massive market, lifting prices and pumping cash into rural America," Rollins said in a social media post.

Opposition parties criticised the government over the deal saying it would compromise national interest.

"Narendra Modi ji has sold your (farmers') hard work in this trade deal because he is compromised. He has sold the country," Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi told reporters outside Parliament.

Goyal termed Rahul Gandhi's statement negative and misleading.

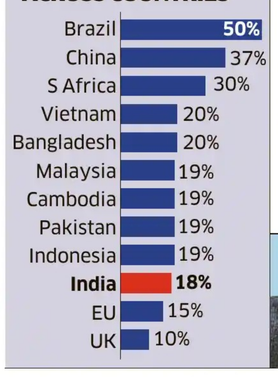
"They are asking why the US President announced tariff cuts first, but if the US had applied such tariffs on us, obviously they will announce it first," the minister said referring to the Opposition leader's charge about Trump dictating the trade deal.

According to the minister, labour-intensive sectors like textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, gems & jewellery, engineering goods and marine will be the main gainers.

▸ Trade, Page 6
Modi buckled: Oppn, P 7

TRADE TREND US President Donald Trump's announcement of a cut in tariffs will give a boost to many sectors in India

US TARIFF RATES ACROSS COUNTRIES



KEY SECTORS TO BENEFIT

APPAREL: Tariff cut to boost competitiveness of Indian textile exports; TN's Tiruppur hopes to gain edge over Vietnam, Bangladesh

ELECTRONICS: Mobile phone exports, which touched Rs 2 lakh crore in FY2024-25, could get a further boost with cut in tariff

MARINE PRODUCTS: Shrimp farmers, traders and exporters in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu expect aquaculture sector revival with cut in tariffs

"We will be shortly issuing a joint statement...along with the details which we will soon ink with the US.
Piyush Goyal, Commerce Minister

India mum on stopping Russian oil purchase

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK,
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Notwithstanding President Donald Trump's claim, India on Tuesday refrained from officially confirming or denying whether it had committed to stop buying oil from Russia and instead raise its energy imports from the United States.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also avoided the issue while making a statement on the India-US trade deal. Moscow, too, noted that India itself had not yet issued any statement on its purported plan to stop buying oil from Russia.

A source in New Delhi, however, said the energy import policies of the government had always prioritised broad-basing and diversifying sources in accordance with market conditions, and were always guided by the objective of safeguarding the interests of consumers.

Trump on Monday said Modi had agreed not only to stop buying oil from Russia, but also to import hydrocarbons from the US.

Trump had earlier accused India of helping Vladimir Putin carry on the war by continuing to buy oil from Russia.

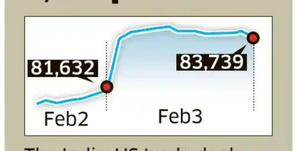
▸ Oil, Page 6

India will cut tariff on some goods to zero

The US is working on details of its trade deal with India, under which India will cut tariffs on industrial goods to zero. Page 11

Stock surge

Sensex soars 2,073 points



The India-US trade deal announcement gave a huge boost to the market sentiment with benchmark Sensex and Nifty 50 rallying by over 2.5%

P 12

Sharp spurt

Biggest gain for rupee in 7 years

India-US trade deal announcement saw the rupee registering best single-day gain in over seven years on Tuesday. The rupee surged by 1.36% to 90.32.

P 12

Metals shine

Silver, gold rally after slump

GOLD		10g
Feb2	1,52,700	
Feb3	1,57,700	
SILVER		1kg
Feb2	2,60,000	
Feb3	2,84,000	

Silver and gold prices ended a three-day steep fall and rebounded sharply on Tuesday, with the white metal surging Rs 24,000 to Rs 2.84 lakh per kg, while gold climbed to Rs 1.57 lakh per 10 gm.

P 12

SC slams WhatsApp, Meta; says can't play with privacy

Court say consumers in unequal pact with companies

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed Meta Platforms Inc and WhatsApp, taking up their appeals against a Competition Commission of India's order imposing a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore over the privacy policy, saying tech giants cannot "play with the right to privacy of citizens in the name of data sharing".

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi questioned the way the privacy terms of these companies were crafted, saying it will not allow tech giants like WhatsApp and its parent company Meta share the data of consumers who are in unequal agreements.

Meta and WhatsApp were also aggrieved with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's judgment that upheld CCI's findings of abuse of dominance, while granting limited relief on advertising-related data sharing.

In its oral remarks, the bench said they have made a "mockery of constitutionalism of this country", and that their conduct "amounts to a decent way of committing theft of private information".

The court felt that there was a grave danger of compromising the right to privacy, zealously guarded under Indian law, when user data is exploited solely for commercial considerations.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Akhil Sibal, for Meta and WhatsApp, respectively, submitted that the penalty has been deposited.

However, the bench voiced its serious concern with platforms' privacy policy.

Rohatgi submitted that an undertaking was given before the Constitution bench that no user will be barred from WhatsApp for not accepting the 2021 privacy policy.

He said the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 has given time till May 2027. However, the court said that it is yet to come into force.

"We will not allow you to share even single information. You can't play with the right to privacy in the name of selling data. We are passing a very strict order and if there is non-compliance, we will throw it out in a second from the court," the bench told the counsel.

The court was informed that all that the NCLAT order does is place Indian consumers in the same position as consumers in other jurisdictions.

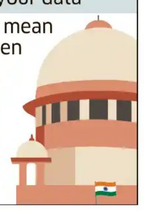
"What is the choice with the people because you have complete monopoly in the market, you will say I am giving a choice; the choice is like the agreement, either you walk out of WhatsApp facility or I will share your data. Why should we allow it," the bench asked the counsel.

The court said, "Today WhatsApp was bought by Facebook and tomorrow both will be bought by someone else, and you will transfer the entire data."

▸ Meta, Page 6

SCATHING REMARKS

- Companies have made a mockery of constitutionalism of this country
- This amounts to a decent way of committing theft of private information
- We are passing a very strict order and if there is non-compliance, we will throw it out in a second
- The choice you offer is like the agreement, either you walk out of WhatsApp or I will share your data
- What do you mean by opt-out? Then opt-out is that you opt out of the country, and withdraw your facilities from here



Kalyana K'taka drives rise in backward taluks count

BENGALURU, DHNS: A decade and a half after spending Rs 32,000 crore to fight regional imbalance, the number of backward taluks in Karnataka has increased to 177, a high-power committee has found, concluding that "backwardness is predominantly a North Karnataka phenomenon".

The Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, headed by economist M Govinda Rao, submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently.

Details on Page 5

Khemchand Singh to be sworn in as Manipur CM today

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After weeks of deliberations, the BJP on Tuesday announced two-time MLA Yumnam Khemchand Singh as the leader of the legislature party in strife-torn Manipur, naming him as the state's next chief minister.

Khemchand Singh

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's MLAs at the BJP headquarters as the state was due to mark one year of President's Rule. The swearing-in will take place on Wednesday.

Singh will have two deputy CMs, one from the Kuki-Zo community and another from the Naga community. Kangpokpi MLA Nemcha Kipgen has been named one of the deputy CMs. The alliance partner Naga People's Front is expected to name the Naga deputy CM soon. Govind Das, who has been a frontrunner for the post, will be the home minister.

Khemchand Singh (62), belongs to the Meitei community and is an engineer by profession. He has previously served as the Municipal Administration Minister in the previous Biren Singh government. In 2022, he had emerged as a contender for the CM's post.

"Yumnam Khemchand Singh is known as a leader who enjoys the support of all communities. He can work with every group, which is perhaps why the party has placed its bet on him," a leader said.

In Manipur, Singh is considered a rival of former CM Biren Singh. Sources said that by making him the CM, the BJP wants to send a message about its seriousness about the peace process in the state.

President's Rule was imposed on February 13 last year.

Of the state's 60 MLAs, 37 are from BJP. In 2022, BJP had won 32 seats, but five JD(U) MLAs joined the BJP. Conrad Sangma's National People's Party had won six seats, while NPF and Congress have five MLAs each. The Kuki People's Alliance has two MLAs and there are three independents.

Eight MPs suspended from Lok Sabha for 'unruly behaviour'

SHEMIN JOY &
AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Seven Congress members and one CPM MP were suspended from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday for 'unruly behaviour' after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair.

The protest began after the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, was not allowed to continue his speech on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha, following his repeated references to India's troubles with China.

Congress' Manickam Tagore, Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Prashant Padole, C Kiran Kumar Reddy and Gurjeet Singh Aujla and CPM's Su Venkatesan were suspended for the remaining period of the Budget Session ending on April 2 after a resolution moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju was passed by a voice vote.

Attempts by Speaker Om Birla to end the stalemate via a meeting of both the sides did not succeed.

▸ Eight MPs, Page 6

Rahul Gandhi speaks during the Budget session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

EXCISE 'SCAM'

Oppn stages all-night stir seeking Timmapur's scalp

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP and JD(S) staged an all-night protest in the Assembly on Tuesday after Excise Minister RB Timmapur refused to quit over corruption charges, including allegations against his son Vinay in liquor licensing and transfer of officials.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka sought to incriminate Timmapur by using transcripts of phone conversations involving officials and allegations levelled by the federation of wine merchants.

Opposition leaders stage a protest in the Assembly on Tuesday night seeking the resignation of RB Timmapur.

"This is among Karnataka's biggest scams worth Rs 6,000 crore," Ashoka said. "Rates have been fixed for postings of excise deputy commissioners. There are monthly collection targets. The minister should be sacked and an investigation done," he said.

Ashoka claimed that excise money is being funneled to poll-bound Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

"The wine merchants' body has said Timmapur is corrupt and they want him gone. They want excise to come directly under the finance department. Yet, the minister is still sitting here," he said.

During a debate, Ashoka read out a transcript of a phone call between Joint Commissioner Nagarajappa and a lawyer named Ramesh.

▸ Excise, Page 6

Won't resign, says Excise Minister

With the Opposition BJP and JD(S) baying for his blood, Excise Minister RB Timmapur on Tuesday ruled out resignation and listed out various reforms that he had initiated to curb corruption. "I haven't committed any mistake. I won't resign," Timmapur said.

Details on Page 4

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North corp begins mapping of 2025 draft voter rolls

BENGALURU, DHNS: As a preliminary step for Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, the Bengaluru North City Corporation has started mapping the 2025 draft voter list with the 2002 electoral roll.

The exercise is being carried out at seven assembly constituencies: KR Puram, Mahalakshmi Layout, Malleswaram, Hebbal, Pulakeshinagar, Sarvagnanagar and CV Raman Nagar.

In this regard, Pommala Sunil Kumar, Additional District Election Officer and Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, appealed to the voters of Bengaluru North to use this process and get their names mapped in the Voter List 2025, identified by the serial number of the 2002 Voter List.

Gelatine sticks, detonators seized in Hulimavu

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Hulimavu police on Tuesday recovered a cache of gelatine sticks and detonators that were allegedly being stored illegally in the southeastern part of the city, officials said.

Police seized 15 gelatine sticks and 30 detonators from a site near Akshaya Nagar.

Investigations revealed that a suspect was allegedly using the gelatine sticks to break rocks without obtaining the necessary permissions. The activity was reportedly carried out on a 100 ft×100 ft site between 10.30 am and 2 pm in a densely populated residential area.

Acting on a tip-off, Hulimavu police officers arrived at the spot and found the explosives. A tractor and an earthmover used at the site were also seized. Workers present allegedly fled as soon as the police arrived.

Given the potential security threat, a bomb disposal squad was deployed to examine the site.

Police have registered a case and said further legal action would be initiated after receiving a detailed report from the bomb squad.

HC seeks details on tracing overstaying foreigners in B'luru

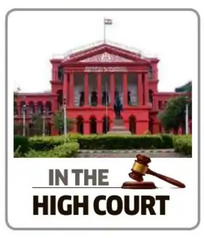
Directs state govt to place details on record

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to place on record the steps taken to track and trace foreign nationals overstaying in Bengaluru without valid visas or without registering with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the direction while hearing a petition filed by two Nigerian nationals — Emeka James Iwoba and Uderike Fidelis — who have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The petitioners sought a declaration that their arrest under the NDPS Act was illegal, claiming they were not informed of the grounds of arrest at the time of apprehension and were not produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.



The Sampigehalli police had arrested them on May 12, 2024, and allegedly recovered banned substances from their possession.

Appearing for the FRRO, Deputy Solicitor General of India H Shanthi Bhushan submitted that the petitioners had entered India in 2015 on business visas, which expired in 2018. He also informed the court that the petitioners had allegedly resorted to impersonation.

Bhushan further submitted that several foreign nationals fail to register with the FRRO.

He informed the court that between 2021 and 2025, as many as 25,60,468 foreigners arrived in Bengaluru, while 10,547 arrived at the Mangaluru airport. He also pointed out that certain educational institutions admit foreign nationals on visas and later issue transfer certificates enabling them to change institutions.

At this stage, Justice Nagaprasanna questioned why authorities were not taking action against foreigners found overstaying on the basis of forged documents.

The court adjourned the matter, observing that it would consider whether the arrested foreigners could claim protection under Article 22 of the Constitution, which safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.

"Meanwhile, the state government shall place on record the steps taken to track and trace foreign nationals overstaying in the city without valid visas or without registration with the FRRO," the court added.

Vehicles crawl amid traffic congestion at Iblur Junction.
DH FILE PHOTO

Additional flyover planned at Iblur to ease ORR gridlock

BENGALURU, DHNS

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Tuesday instructed officials to prepare a blueprint for the construction of an additional flyover near Iblur Junction.

Rao, who held a joint inspection with officials from GBA, B-SMILE, BMRCL, and the East and South City Corporations, said the stretch of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Silk Board Junction to KR Puram will be developed in a comprehensive manner.

"Constructing an additional flyover at Iblur Junction would significantly reduce traffic congestion. An approximately 800-metre flyover is required at Iblur Junction," he said.

Officials were instructed to prepare a comprehensive plan detailing the estimated cost, construction model, and time required for completion.

"In coordination with the South City Corporation and the BMRCL, steps should be taken for comprehensive development of Silk Board Junction, including installation of HRPC, precautionary measures to prevent flooding, and other related works," he said.

Rao also observed that roads below the metro stations along the ORR are uneven, and that due to pile cap works, road width is gradually reducing, which could lead to increased congestion.

He instructed officials to inspect all metro stations along the ORR and immediately rectify issues wherever found.

He directed officials from the city corporation and traffic police to jointly inspect the ORR and submit a list of required pedestrian skywalks, along with design details and estimated funding requirements.

More coaches added to Namma Metro's Pink Line

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three coaches of the second train for Namma Metro's Pink Line arrived at the Kothanur depot in southern Bengaluru on Tuesday morning, sources in the know said.

The coaches were dispatched by PSU BEML late Monday night.

The coaches were unloaded at the loading/unloading bay and are being moved to the Inspection Bay Line (IBL) for further inspections. Three more coaches will be dispatched on Wednesday night, completing the six-coach trainset, the sources added.

On December 11, 2025, BEML rolled out the Pink Line's prototype train, which is currently undergoing trial runs on the mainline.

The prototype needs to get statutory clearances before its induction into revenue service. The process is expected to take another four months to complete.

BEML aims to supply six trainsets for the Pink Line by May, when the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) expects to open the elevated section of the Pink Line.

When the 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere section opens, Bengaluru will become the second city in India to have a metro network of more than 100 km.

A Pink Line coach being unloaded at the Kothanur depot on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Pink Line's 14.76-km underground section — Bengaluru's longest — is slated to open in December.

Station construction and track works are in the advanced stages on the underground section, and are expected to complete in six months. Thereafter, four to six months will be needed to conduct trial runs, multiple BMRCL officials told *DH*.

HC bins PIL on Koramangala Passport Seva Kendra

Public interest plea seeks demolition of the office

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking the demolition of the Passport Seva Kendra at Koramangala, which claimed that the 1.30-acre parcel of land on which the building stands was a playground.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha noted that a 2023 amendment to the 1994 government order allotting the land had corrected an error in the original survey numbers.

The bench also observed that the petitioner had failed to produce any zonal plans showing the land as a playground or an open space.

The petitioner — Dr BR Ambedkar Youth Social and Cultural Welfare Trust — had contended that the 1.30 acres of land in Survey No 12 of Koramangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru, had been used as a playground for several decades by children from nearby schools.

It was further claimed that the land belonged to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (now the Greater Bengaluru Authority).

Citing the Karnataka Parks, Play-Fields and Open Spaces (Preservation and Regulation) Act, the petitioner argued that land earmarked as a park or playground could not be put to any other use.

Opposing the petition, the Union government submitted that the original government order issued on November 19, 1994, contained an error with respect to Survey No 61.

The Additional Solicitor General informed the court that the three acres of land allotted to the Ministry of External Affairs for the Regional Passport Office were located under different survey numbers, and that the mistake was rectified through an amendment issued on January 25, 2023.

"In view of the amendment to the Government Order allotting lands to the central government, the assumption on which the present petition rests does not hold good.

The PIL challenged the Passport Seva Kendra at Koramangala, claiming that the 1.30-acre parcel of land on which the building stands was a playground. The petitioner contended that the land, under the Karnataka Parks, Play-Fields and Open Spaces Act, could not be diverted for any other purpose.

"Undisputedly, the central government is occupying the land as allotted to it," the bench said.

While acknowledging the petitioner's concern over the shrinking of open spaces in the city, the court held that it could not restrain the central government from using land duly allotted to it.

The bench further noted that no zonal plans had been produced to establish that the land in question was designated as a playground or open area.

White-topping in Yelahanka to be completed by March-end

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath, along with Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) officials, inspected the ongoing white-topping works in the BNCC jurisdiction.

They instructed officials to ensure quality white-topping work and to complete the project by the end of March.

The MLA and BNCC Commissioner also inspected the footpaths and directed officials to maintain uniform level pedestrian pathways.

"Issues related to road widening be resolved, lands with relinquishment deeds be taken over by the city corporation, and swift action be taken to proceed with road widening," a statement by BNCC said.

Wherever road width permits, suitable parking arrangements should be made on either side of the road, officials were directed.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (Feb 4)	6:21 pm
Sunrise (Feb 5)	6:46 am
Moonrise	7:49 pm
Moonset	7:45 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Awareness march: World Cancer Day; Kidwai Memorial Hospital to Lalbagh Botanical Garden; from 7.30 am.

Conference: On 'Beyond Crops, Agriculture–Building Sustainable Ecosystems for Farmers' Prosperity'; Organised by the Agriculture Department, Seshadri Road; from 9.30 am.

CULTURAL

Bharat Ranga Mahotsav and Ranga Parishe: Centenary celebration, poetry meet and play performances; Karnataka Nataka Academy, National Drama School; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli.

English play: 'The Star'; Prithesh Bhandary; Jagriti Theatre; Whitefield; 7.30 pm.

SPRING SPECTACLE

Bright Tabebuia flowers attract visitors to Cubbon Park. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Menzies Aviation secures 15-year ground handling licence at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Menzies Aviation has secured a 15-year licence to provide ground handling services at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The licence will come into effect from April 1, with operations expected to begin immediately after the company obtains the required regulatory approvals.

Menzies Aviation has been associated with KIA for the past 15 years, during which it has provided air cargo services to both domestic and international carriers.

Under the new licence, the company will offer a full suite of ground handling services across Terminals 1 and 2, including passenger, ramp and baggage operations. It will also integrate its ground and cargo handling services at the airport.

As part of the expansion, Menzies will launch a local recruitment programme, with around 1,000 new employees expected to be hired over the first three years. This will add to its existing cargo workforce of about 1,700 employees.

The company will also invest more than $9.2 million (approximately Rs 83 crore) to modernise and standardise its ground support equipment (GSE) at KIA. This will include the introduction of electric GSE as part of its long-term sustainability strategy, according to a statement issued by the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of India to hold 37th meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) has convened its 37th General Body Meeting from February 4 to 10 at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru.

The biennial gathering will bring together Catholic bishops and church leaders from across the country to reflect on the church's mission in contemporary India, the CBCI stated in a press release.

The General Body Meeting will be held under the theme 'Faith and the Nation: The Church's Witness to India's Constitutional Vision', highlighting the church's commitment to constitutional values and nation-building.

Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, will be the chief guest for the inaugural session.

"Christianity is not a foreign religion. It has existed in India over the last 2,000 years. Although we are a minority, we have made significant contributions to nation-building and we continue to do so. We are proud Indians," Archbishop Andrews Thazhath said during the press conference, while expressing concerns over instances of discrimination and attacks on Christians in some parts of the country.

The meeting will feature special sessions on the current socio-political context and constitutional values, with inputs from eminent legal and academic experts, including former Supreme Court Judge Justice KM Joseph and Prof D Dominic.

The agenda also includes presentations and discussions on reports from various CBCI offices and commissions, two focused workshops addressing key challenges and possible solutions, and elections of chairpersons of various CBCI offices as well as CBCI office-bearers.

A public function will be organised on February 9 to felicitate distinguished Christians in recognition of their significant contributions to society and the Church in India.

Around 7,000 properties with huge tax arrears likely to be auctioned

BENGALURU, DHNS: All five municipal corporations, which come under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), have decided to auction as many as 7,000 properties that have defaulted on the payment of property tax despite multiple notices to clear arrears.

Officials said all these properties owe a total of Rs 437 crore.

With the financial year set to end in two months, authorities are making an all-out attempt to recover the dues.

'Last resort'

Describing the exercise as a "last resort" to recover the amount, all the corporations have scheduled the auction for February 17. The list of defaulting properties is also available on the property tax portal.

The properties, which have defaulted on payments over several years, are spread across all five corporations.

For instance, the Bengaluru East corporation has identified 1,615 properties, while Bengaluru West has listed 1,504 properties. Each corporation has pending arrears ranging between Rs 72 crore and Rs 119 crore.

When the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) threatened to auction the properties of defaulters last year, they were quick to clear their dues.

Officials hope to recover all the dues before the scheduled auction process.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Flute-nadaswara duet today

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of the Annual Spring Music Festival, Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a flute-nadaswara duet on Wednesday at 5.30 pm at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja.

It will feature B Vijayagopal (flute), Mylai M Karthikeyan (nadaswaram), Puttur Nikshith (mridanga), and Trichy S Krishnaswamy (ghata).

Another FIR against Puneeth Kerehalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: The SJ Park police have registered another FIR against Hindu right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly abusing and threatening a man.

The FIR, which also names Vasantha Giliyar and Kirik Keerthi, was registered on February 2 following directions from a Bengaluru court.

The complainant, Byrappa Harish Kumar, 39, is the president of Karnataka Ranadheera Pade.

According to the FIR, Kumar had participated in a debate on a local news channel on October 9, along with Giliyar. During the programme, an argument reportedly broke out between the two.

After the debate ended, some people associated with Kerehalli allegedly abused Kumar, attempted to assault him and issued threats, acting at the behest of Giliyar, the FIR stated.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace and criminal intimidation.

Ambulance driver booked for misusing siren to skip signal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cracking down on the misuse of emergency sirens, the Sadashivanagar traffic police have registered a case against an ambulance driver for operating his vehicle with sirens and emergency lights blaring.

Police said there was no patient on board.

The incident occurred on the evening of January 31.

Acting on the erratic movement of the ambulance, police personnel at the Sadashivanagar police station junction intercepted the vehicle.

On personal work

Upon inspection, they discovered that the driver was heading towards Banashankari for personal work.

Police said the driver was using the siren and top lights to weave through heavy traffic, causing significant disruption to the flow of vehicles in the area.

"We had received several complaints from the public about ambulances driving recklessly even when empty," said a senior police officer. "In this specific case, there was no emergency. The driver was simply using the right of way afforded to emergency vehicles to bypass congestion for his own convenience."

Police have registered a case under Section 285 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with relevant sections of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act.

A recommendation has been forwarded to the Regional Transport Office (RTO) to suspend the driver's licence and Registration Certificate to deter future violations.

Ramprasat Manohar takes charge as KPTCL MD

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dr Ramprasat Manohar V has taken charge as the Managing Director of the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).

Dr Ramprasat Manohar V

Last week, the government transferred Pankaj Kumar Pandey, the previous MD from KPTCL, as the principal secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

Ramprasat Manohar will now hold the concurrent charge as MD of KPTCL, in addition to his current role as the chairman of BWSSB.

Bike taxi riders face harassment from auto and cab drivers

'Auto drivers have no fear of law, they attack us'

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the Karnataka High Court's positive nod to bike taxis, bike taxi riders continue to face harassment on the ground at the hands of autorickshaw and cab drivers.

While the court verdict, passed on January 23, was a point of celebration for aggregator platforms, riders and commuters, auto unions have strongly opposed the move.

Balaji Venkat, a 58-year-old rider, shared that the resistance from auto drivers towards bike taxis had got worse since the bike taxi ban was revoked.

"They hurl all sorts of vile abuses at us, but it doesn't just end there. The auto drivers have no fear of the law, and they come to attack us physically. I was all alone when a group of auto drivers attacked me, and I had to call 112 for help. Instead of fighting back, I've advised all riders to reach out to the police first," he said.

Another rider shared an instance of an unprovoked attack from a cab driver near Residency Road, "When I reached to pick up the passenger, a cab driver approached us and not just verbally abused me but also the passenger. He tried to force the passenger to cancel the ride, but when I threatened to call the police, he drove away."

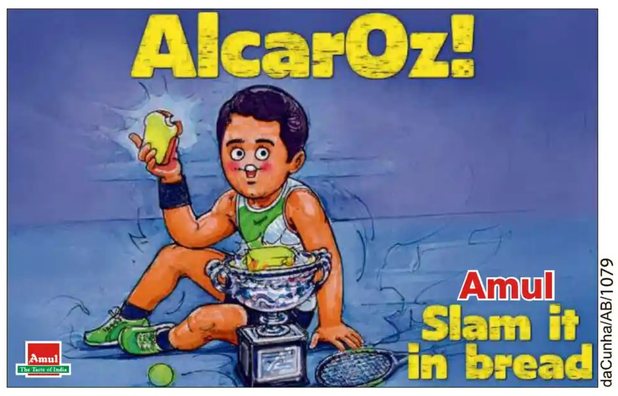
Such incidents have become common in and around the Majestic area, said the riders. "There is a gang of auto drivers in the Majestic area, which has been extensively troubling bike taxis. They book bike taxis, and when the rider arrives, they gang up on him and start harassing him. In the past week, I have received at least 30 complaints of verbal and physical harassment from riders," said Mohammed Salim, president of Namma Bike Taxi Association, adding that auto drivers continue to spread propaganda about bike taxis.

"They are spreading false information about how bike taxis are unsafe and are associated with rape and sexual assault. They're trying to scare away commuters," he added.

Auto union to take legal action

D Rudramurthy, general secretary of Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU), informed DH that auto drivers in the city will decide the future course of action on February 4.

"We have protested enough; now we'll be taking legal action. Auto drivers are not intentionally harassing bike taxis. We're merely questioning their right to operate. How are they already functioning when they don't have yellow boards? On the other hand, we are required to get all sorts of permits and certificates. We're legally commuting passengers, they are not," he said.



daCunha/AB/1079

C J Roy's death: Decision on judicial probe lies with union finance minister, says Parameshwara

BENGALURU, DHNS

C J Roy

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said that the decision on whether a judicial inquiry will be set up to probe CJ Roy's death lies with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"I know that a letter has been written (by Kerala CM) to the Finance minister, but I do not know the contents. Let us wait on what she decides. The Income Tax (I-T) Department falls under the Finance minister. We have set up a special investigation team (SIT), which has begun the probe. Based on their report, we will decide on the next course of action," Parameshwara said.

"The SIT will record statements of the family members and others as needed. Before the investigation concludes, we can't say the reason," he added.

Continuing its investigation, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is also examining the medical history of Roy to understand whether he had a history of mental illness. Reportedly, Roy had visited a psychiatrist in Jayanagar, a day before his death on January 30.

Sources said that Roy's claim to be debt-free may have led the I-T department to probe him to find out the sources of his funds.

"Investigations have accessed his call detail records and other technical records. A detailed scouring is underway to find out who Roy spoke with immediately before his death and who were frequent callers," sources said.

'Vagachipani' opens to full hall

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

"This is the first time my film has been introduced in Kannada and is being presented to Kannada audiences," said an elated Natesh Hegde, director of 'Vagachipani', at the film festival. It was screened in the Asian Cinema Competition. It opened to a full hall.

'Vagachipani' is based on Amaresh Nugadoni's short stories, 'Tamandhada Kedu' and 'Dhare Uridare'. "The movie's intent is the same, but I made modifications to suit the medium," Natesh said at the Q&A session after the screening.

Set in Vagachipani village in Sirsi, the film follows Pathi, a minor and mentally diverse shepherdess who is discovered to be pregnant. Her employer, played by Achyut Kumar, who aims to be the village's head wants to cover it.

"I have seen someone just like Pathi when I was studying in Sirsi. Someone brought a young girl with a bump in her stomach and left her near the bus stand. But she disappeared after a while," he said, adding he always wondered what happened to her.

Veteran Paresh Kamdar is the film's editor and it is produced by Anurag Kashyap and Natesh.

Women actors reduced to 'Props' of male leads: Movie critic

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Women actors in recent years have become mere "props" of male actors rather than having substantial roles, said dialogue writer and movie critic Sandhya Rani at the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes).

Speaking at a session titled "Rhythmical Strength of Existence" regarding the movie 'Hemavathi,' directed by the legendary S Siddalingaiah, Rani noted that while mainstream cinema struggles, digital shifts were promising. "The growth of OTT has helped bring in more women-centric stories, allowing actors like Shefali Shah to emerge as powerhouse performers," she said.

Reflecting on the themes of 'Hemavathi' (1977), which follows a priest's daughter abandoned by her husband and facing caste-based struggles, Rani remarked that the social prejudices portrayed in the film remain prevalent.

"The discrimination against women and lower castes exists in different formats today, but the struggle continues," she added.

Rani also touched upon the domestic pressures faced by women. "Many suicides among married women could be prevented if parents chose to support their daughters instead of asking them to adjust," she said.

The panel, which included Karnataka Lekhakiyara Sangha President R Sunandamma, journalist Raghunath C H and researcher Manasa Chandrika, analysed the legacy of veteran directors like Puttanna Kanagal.

While Kanagal was known for women-centric films with significant screen time, Rani argued they were not truly "pro-women."

"At the end of those stories, the women always had to be saved by a man," she observed.

Raghunath agreed and added that the portrayal of women in modern Kannada soap operas as sacrificial and dependent was a direct influence of directors like Kanagal.

Manasa Chandrika pointed out that these characters dominate television because a large section of the female audience prefers such stories, as do men who expect women to behave that way.

The panel also discussed the increasing difficulty of making socially conscious cinema today. Raghunath remarked that if a film like Hemavathi were made today, it would likely face hurdles. "In today's political climate, Siddalingaiah would not be able to work again, and the movie would fail to release due to state censorship and politics," he added.

'Female directors forced to adopt aggressive posture on set'

Panel discussion delves into patriarchy and male gaze in cinema

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The panel discussion on women directors and the evolving language of cinema drew a packed audience on the sixth day of Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes). The panelists delved into the systemic challenges women helming films face, and the restrictive ways female characters are written by men.

Panelists Dr Jacqueline Roussety and Nidhi Saxena and moderator Sindhu Srinivasa Murthy, Kannada director, at the discussion on women directors at BIFFes.

Nidhi Saxena, director of 'Secret of a Mountain Serpent' and 'Sad Letters of an Imaginary Woman', highlighted the deeply entrenched patriarchy on movie sets. "The environment is often such that men struggle to take direct or indirect orders from women directors. It is difficult to be taken seriously," she rued.

Nidhi noted that women are often forced to adopt aggressive personas to command respect.

"To be heard, we often have to let go of our femininity and be unnecessarily rude or even curse. Otherwise, we are expected to be extra polite and submissive. I have ended up firing many people simply because they refused to deliver what was required," she added.

Jacqueline Roussety, a German actress, director, and coach, observed that even in European cinema, strong female characters are often stripped of their womanhood.

"In German cinema, we have strong female characters, but they are often forced to be brutal and lose their 'femininity.' The male gaze has impacted women directors too; many end up directing women like men because that is the only template they know," Roussety explained.

She further argued that the industry relies on "tried and tested" methods that reinforce stereotypes. "Large-budget films are still almost exclusively in the hands of men," she noted.

Nidhi also critiqued the visual language used to depict women.

"Action and movement centre around men, but when it comes to women, the camera slows down to focus on seduction. Women are often broken into fragments, with ultra-close-ups on lips, belly buttons, and cleavages," she said.

Explaining the "Glass Ceiling" phenomenon, Roussety described it as an invisible barrier that prevents women from reaching the highest levels of the industry.

"Women artists can rise to a certain point, but eventually hit a ceiling that they cannot break through to grow further," she said.

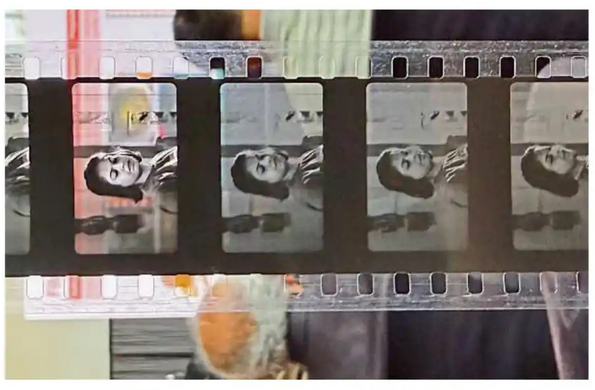
Seven, including TV astrologer, arrested for murder

SIDDAPURA (UTTARA KANNADA DIST), DHNS: Seven individuals, including a TV astrologer, have been arrested in connection with the murder of 43-year-old Vasant Naik at Avaragoppa village in the taluk.

A native of Hemmanabail, Kamalakar Hegde (48), an astrologer who appeared on TV shows, was arrested in Shivamogga, along with six other suspects, including the victim's sister-in-law Suchitra Naik (36). While Hegde, and two other suspects were held in Siddapura, the other four were incarcerated in Shivamogga.

Hegde was reportedly involved in an extra-marital relationship with Suchitra, pushing her husband Mahesh Naik into depression. "With his daughter, Mahesh went to stay at his father's house in Avaragoppa. Suchitra, accompanied by Hegde, went there to take her daughter from her husband," police said.

"Suchitra & Hegde made an attempt on Mahesh's life, when latter's brother Vasant intervened, only to be killed with sharp weapons," said SP Deepan M N. The villagers camped outside the police station late into Tuesday night demanding justice for Naik.



A 32 mm film of an unnamed movie was circulated among the audience at the session on 'Archiving, Preservation and Restoration of Moving Images' at Biffes on Tuesday. (Right) Film archivist Aparna Subramanian speaks at the session.

Take archiving seriously, Chalanachitra Academy told

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Noted archivist and moving-image preservationist Aparna Subramanian watched a 35 mm print of the 1976 Kannada film 'Premada Kanike' starring Rajkumar and Aarathi, which was projected at the open air screenings at the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Monday.

She said the print was heavily faded, which is a serious concern and urged the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy to restore and digitise Kannada films.

She was speaking at a session titled 'Archiving, preservation and restoration of moving images,' at the festival on Tuesday.

Subramanian spoke on the importance of archiving films and took the audience through the process of restoring, digitising & preserving them.

She emphasised on the importance of proper storage and handling of film and magnetic media to prevent deterioration — using appropriate storage material and recommended practises like climate-controlled vaults.

Strips of 8 mm, 16 mm and 32 mm negatives & positives were circulated among the audience, explaining the process of film decay — an irreversible chemical breakdown called vinegar syndrome. Some negatives had a strong vinegar odour.

There are many challenges of storing and preserving films even after they are restored and digitised, she says.

"Preserving the restored digital file is not enough, and one back-up is not sufficient. Preservation of the original analog is very important," she added.

Research about mobile media preservation is going on and it may be the next big thing, she said.

Subramanian says, not all films need restoration. "If the film is in good condition, digitising it, correcting and repairing faded colour is sufficient," she explained. She recently found a print of the cult Tamil film 'Rakhtakanneer' starring M R Radha and donated it to NFAI.

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, is organising a basic course on preservation, archiving, digitisation and restoration of films in collaboration with the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune.

It will be held from Feb 23 to 27 at FTII & NFAI in Pune. The course costs Rs 3,500. On last day, participants will be taken to the restoration and archival department to observe the process.

Row over Palestinian films casts shadow on BIFFes

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) progresses, more and more people are continuing to arrive from different parts of the state, the country, and even abroad.

While the BIFFes organisers have been lauded for their diverse, multilingual film selections, the government has faced criticism for not taking a stand on the screening of Palestinian films, even as audience turnout continues to rise.

Speaking to *DH*, Nina Nayak, a senior citizen and movie buff, said, "We are getting to watch movies from across the world on big screens. The movies are a wonderful selection as they have great stories, cinematography, acting, and music."

Rajan Suresh, who travelled from Kerala for the festival, said, "I come every year for the festival. Along with interesting movies, engaging expert sessions are also held. I also loved the open theatre screening introduced this year. Though I don't understand much Kannada, I'm going to the open theatre just for the experience. So far, the movies there have turned out to be good ones."

Estafania Ramirez, who is visiting Bengaluru for the film festival, said, "I love the curation of movies. There are a few Spanish movies as well. I was introduced to the festival by an Indian friend. I am here for the entire duration, and I'm thoroughly enjoying the festival. I look forward to coming back next year, too."

However, there was visible disappointment among attendees regarding the cancellation of Palestinian movie screenings.

Anisha Athreya, a movie buff, said, "I wish Palestinian movies were screened like those from other countries. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should have stood up for Palestine, because this feels like the government is controlling what we should watch, and that is not democracy."

"It does not feel right that one country is being ostracised because of the geopolitical situation. No matter what, people need to watch what someone is doing, and that is what movies are. If we start doing this, we might eventually have no movies left to watch," said Rhea Joseph, a movie enthusiast from Kerala.

Rashmi Kaur, a movie curator for a leading streaming platform, said, "It is not that we specifically demanded Palestinian movies, but to exclude them does not feel right. Film festivals are places where we see the essence of cinema, and the audience should be given the right to make a choice."

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Say cha! Japanese tea shops pop up across city

These cafes offer innovative flavour pairings, freshly stone-ground matcha drinks and less-known teas

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The unprecedented popularity of matcha has birthed a clutch of Japanese-themed tea shops over the past six months. While matcha pop-ups were all the rage during the first half of 2025, towards the end of the year, we saw permanent shops popping up in areas like Indiranagar, the Central Business District, J P Nagar and Koramangala.

At Turtle Matcha in Indiranagar, they do not aim to ape Japanese tea shops, but instead look to them for inspiration. "We blend the highest grade of matcha with flavours we know will work for Bengaluru's palate," says Karishma Lala, who runs the cafe along with her fiance Sachin Rathore.

On the menu are unusual flavours like toasted cinnamon, honey rosemary, and caramel popcorn, their most popular. The organic ceremonial grade matcha they use is imported from Shizuoka in Japan. "We tried a number of samples and picked one that suits Indian palates the best," she explains.

Female clients

Karishma was hooked after she tried matcha for the first time in Vietnam six years ago. But its popularity over the last two years encouraged her to set up her own store.

The duo began by hosting pop-ups. "From May to October 2025, when we opened our shop, we did about 11 pop-ups," Karishma recalls. About 70% of their clientele is female and in the 18 to 35 age group. About a kilometre away, Teka — Coffee and Japanese Tea, is another spot that opened towards the end of 2025. It is run by a Japanese national, Haruka Nagahashi, and offers matcha in addition to less popular Japanese teas such as hojicha and genmaicha. The tea leaves are imported from Japan and stone-ground at the shop.

The caramel popcorn matcha is the most ordered drink at Turtle Matcha in Indiranagar.

Different grades

It has been three months since Ananya Rao's Purpose Matcha on Convent Road started welcoming customers.

She notes that clientele who are regular matcha drinkers prefer their classic matcha latte, while options like strawberry and cream matcha are popular with most clients.

The 40-seater churns out about 30-35 cups of matcha a day on average. "Our repeat customers are clued into Japanese tea culture. We have also trained our staff to educate customers who are interested in matcha," she says.

The cafe uses three different grades of matcha, which are imported from Uji, Japan. The highest quality is used for classic, non-flavoured matcha drinks, the second highest is used for drinks that incorporate multiple flavour combinations, while the third goes into desserts.

Kaori by Chiran, also in Indiranagar, has noticed an increase in customers looking for less-known Japanese teas such as gyokuro, genmaicha, and hojicha. "Regarded the most premium and carefully cultivated tea in Japan, gyokuro resonates with customers who are interested in refined flavours and slow, mindful consumption," says Rashmi Govindaraju, who works with Chiran Tea, which runs the shop. The cafe was opened in December 2025 and is currently located within a Japanese restaurant.

Strawberry and cream matcha is a popular option at Purpose Matcha on Convent Road. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Pranit Jay, a resident of Koramangala, first tried matcha eight years ago. Since then, he has been experimenting with it at home. But the sudden popularity of the drink has allowed him to sample newer flavours. He notes that these matcha-focused cafes have menus that suit every budget.

"The most expensive matcha I have had was around Rs 450-480, and the most inexpensive was around Rs 180," he shares, adding, "I also think Bengaluru has an active matcha community, with regular meetups and popups, compared to other metros."

POPCORN

Deja phew

You may have heard the parable of the boatman who earned a bad name by dropping his passengers far from the shore, forcing them to wade home. When he died, his son wanted people to remember him with less anger and some fondness. So he started dropping them farther away, prompting them to say, "His father was a better man." Mission accomplished.

No wonder you experience déjà vu when you hear of reduced taxes and tariffs.

Double-decker buses offer fresh view of familiar streets

KSTDC's hop-on, hop-off Ambaari service blends nostalgia with tourism, drawing locals and visitors alike

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has brought back a slice of history to Bengaluru with the launch of double-decker 'hop-on, hop-off' bus services on January 21. A total of three Ambaari buses have been deployed. These iconic buses were used in Mysuru during Dasara. After nearly a gap of three decades, the sight of double-deckers navigating the city's central business district has drawn enthusiastic responses from residents and visitors.

The 45-minute circuit covers 26 landmarks across the city centre, including M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Vidhana Soudha, the High Court of Karnataka, Town Hall, Cubbon Park, and the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum. It allows passengers to explore the city at a leisurely pace from an elevated vantage point.

The double-decker bus started plying on January 21. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Positive response

Mayuka Namikata, who moved to Bengaluru from Japan nearly a decade ago, said the experience exceeded her expectations. "I was captivated, especially by Vidhana Soudha," she said, adding that the grandeur was best appreciated from the upper deck. Some visitors from Spain, who *Metrolife* spoke to, echoed her sentiments. Daily commuters, too, appreciated the fresh view of familiar streets. "I pass this road almost every day, but the bus gave me a completely different perspective," said Thomas Vijay, who commutes from Kasturinagar to Nrupathunga Road daily.

Teething issues

Multiple passengers complained about the wrong information provided on the KSTDC website. The website states that the buses will take off at Ravindra Kalakshetra, J C Road. However, when *Metrolife* reached there, we learnt that they were taking off from the Ravindra Kalakshetra Exit, next to the Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall. Many passengers were spotted waiting at the wrong spot. KSTDC's managing director, Prashant Kumar Mishra, later clarified that the error will be fixed soon.

Another concern was the absence of guides or onboard information about landmarks. Mishra acknowledged the gap. He added that the initiative is still in its early stages. The team is exploring multiple options including placing QR codes that passengers can scan to learn about the history of the landmarks.

KSTDC plans to extend the current route, however they will have to shift utilities like overhanging electric wires and CCTV cameras to make room for the bus, Mishra said. An extension up to Trinity Circle is being explored and could take shape in two to three months.

HOW TO BOOK A TOUR

- The 'Hop-on, Hop-off' services operate from 10 am to 7 pm.
- Passengers can 'hop on' to the bus, 'hop off' at any of the landmarks, explore it at leisure, and get back onto the next bus.
- On weekdays, the buses run once every hour, while on weekends, they run every half hour.
- Tickets are priced at Rs 180 and can be purchased either online or at the starting point.

For details, visit kstdc.co or call 89706 50070.

History

Double-decker buses were once a familiar feature of Bengaluru's streets until they were phased out around 2008-2009. BMTC Chief Traffic Manager G T Prabhakar Reddy recalled the popularity of the service. Passengers often sat on the rooftop, he shared.

However, changes in the city's topography limit feasible routes. For now, KSTDC's Ambaari service offers Bengalureans and visitors a rare chance to rediscover the city slowly, from above, with a renewed sense of wonder.

EVENTS

Talk by veteran
Valiant Veterans, a talk series curated by Bengaluru Prayana on veterans from the Indian Armed Forces, will feature Wing Commander Joseph Thomas on February 8, 3.30 pm, at Higginbothams, M G Road. Entry is free. RSVP at 80884 65996.

Impact of art
A talk by author and curator James Payne will examine how art intersects with everyday life, including class, money, religion and politics, on February 8, 11.30 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Non-verbal play
Kolkata's Baguiati Nritya Mandir troupe will stage 'Rudraganika', a non-verbal play, on February 4, 7 pm, at Kalagrama Samskrutika Samuchaya, Mallathahalli. It is part of the ongoing Bharat Rang Mahotsav and Rangaparishe. Entry free. Passes available at the venue.

Dog attack highlights lapses in pet handling

A 31-year-old woman was mauled by a Rottweiler in HSR Layout last week

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

After a 31-year-old woman was brutally attacked by a neighbour's Rottweiler in HSR Layout, animal behaviourists and activists have drawn attention to the dangers of irresponsible pet handling.

According to reports, Shalini Dubey, mother of a one-year-old child, was attacked on the morning of Republic Day. Shalini and her husband had moved to Bengaluru for work, less than a year ago. She sustained deep wounds on her face and head and required hours of surgery. Reports say that the neighbour, Amaresh Reddy, has been booked under sections 117 (3) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 125 (endangering human life) and 291 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Canine behaviourist Devisri Sarkar labels the pet owner 'irresponsible' and explains that dogs that are tied up all day experience a high amount of trauma. "When they are suddenly freed, they will attack anyone they see as a potential threat, even if unprovoked," she explains. Every dog instinctively guards its home, and Rottweilers have certain traits that make them guard dogs. Under stressful circumstances, such as being tied up the entire day or caged, any dog, even a labrador or golden retriever, can become aggressive, Devisri points out.

She stresses the importance of exposing dogs early on to all kinds of stimuli, whether it's other dogs or babies, based on the pet parents' lifestyle. Training is of utmost importance — not just for the pet, but also for the human in how to handle the dog, she elaborates.

As per BBMP guidelines, all pet dogs should be leashed at all times when in public, notes Sadhna Hegde, an animal rights activist. "The pet owner is definitely aware of his dog's behaviour. He should not have allowed the dog out of the gate without a leash or a muzzle," she says. She recommends that all pet parents use a leash and harness at all times. If the outing requires prolonged interaction with another person, it is better to muzzle them. "Using a muzzle throughout the day will increase their aggression, but not for short outings. Parents should teach them that it is only temporary," explains Sadhna, who runs Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust.

In the event of a dog attack, a victim should try their best to turn their back to the dog, curl up and stay still. "Dogs tend to attack the neck. If the victim does not move, they assume they are dead and move on," she shares.

Rottweilers have traits that make them guard dogs, but all breeds can turn aggressive under stressful circumstances, say experts.

Pure oxygen therapy catching on

It typically starts at Rs 4,000 and requires users to remain inside pressurised chambers

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengalureans are spending 50 minutes or more in pressurised chambers to breathe 100% oxygen. While most are seeking recovery from medical conditions, a growing number are also embracing it for general wellness — to improve sleep, slow ageing, and inhale cleaner air. Some parents are turning to it to boost their children's memory for academics.

The treatment is called Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). The pressure inside the enclosed chamber is typically 1.5 to 3 times the normal atmospheric levels, allowing more oxygen to dissolve into the bloodstream and reach tissues with poor circulation. This is said to aid wound healing, fight infections, treat radiation injuries, counter carbon monoxide poisoning, and reduce brain fog.

In private clinics, a session can cost upwards of Rs 4,000, with patients often needing eight to 40 sessions, sometimes five times a week, to notice results. Though HBOT has existed for over a century, its wider adoption has been limited by cost, says Dr Syed Naveed Ahmed, a diabetologist. But now doctors are seeing patients asking for HBOT, driven by greater health awareness post-pandemic, access to online information, and lately, an interest in longevity.

According to Dr Sumalatha K B, senior consultant in physical medicine and rehabilitation at a Hebbal hospital, HBOT is FDA-approved for 14 clinical conditions and is used as a complementary therapy. At her hospital, three to four patients undergo HBOT daily, mainly for chronic wounds, radiation damage, sensorineural hearing loss, and traumatic brain injuries. She has also prescribed it to autistic children after stem cell therapy. However, she notes that emerging research is hinting at broader benefits of HBOT, including anti-ageing.

At a wellness clinic in Jayanagar, about 30% of HBOT clients are referred by doctors, while the rest opt for it voluntarily for general wellness. PIC: THE WELLNESS CO

NOT ELIGIBLE

HBOT is safe for general wellness, but pregnant women, cancer patients, and people with lung conditions, chronic sinusitis, seizures, ear pain, or a pacemaker are not eligible.

At a wellness clinic in Jayanagar, *Metrolife* spotted a young man reading inside an HBOT chamber. "Metal objects, including phones, are barred (because they can be a fire hazard)," says Dr Soundarya H K, associate doctor at the eight-month-old centre. About 70% of their clients come out of curiosity, to inhale pure oxygen, or improve lung capacity, especially smokers. Nearly 40% of those opting for IV drips for immunity, weight loss, or skin and hair treatments later try HBOT for better nutrient delivery. The clinic sees about two HBOT clients daily, spanning businesspersons, tech professionals, and athletes. Among children, a six-year-old with ADHD and some pre-teens with autism have visited, alongside 8- to 13-year-olds who were brought in to boost memory.

A decade since it opened, Dr Ahmed's medical centre in HBR Layout has seen a top-ranking cricketer, aviation professionals with occupational hearing loss, a child in a coma, and a doctor with depression seeking 100% oxygen therapy. Lifestyle use has risen only recently, he says. Last year, a retired NRI from the US spent 2.5 months in Bengaluru undergoing 60 sessions, hoping to lengthen his telomeres (the protective caps on chromosomes) to reverse cellular ageing.

For BPL families

Bengaluru's Victoria Hospital is the only government facility in Karnataka offering HBOT, with a five-chamber machine. Sessions cost Rs 1,000 for BPL patients and double for others. It treats six to eight patients daily, with some travelling from Mysuru and Shivamogga. Dr Smitha Segu, nodal officer for HBOT, has seen encouraging results in burn, diabetic foot, and post-radiation necrosis cases. "It is heartening to see young children regain hearing after a sudden loss. We have also received a few psychiatric referrals," she says.

Piano concert of French classics

Marouan Benabdallah, a Hungary-based pianist of Moroccan origin, will perform works by French Baroque composers like Rameau, Lully and Royer on Saturday. He will highlight the dance rhythms, rich ornamentation and refined style of 17th- and 18th-century French music. The recital will also feature Maurice Ravel's Tombeau de Couperin, a solo piano suite that pays tribute to friends Ravel lost in World War I.

On February 7, 7 pm, at Aruna Sunderlal Auditorium, The Bangalore School of Music, R T Nagar. Tickets online and at the venue.

Fete of Sugama Sangeetha

Sangeetha Sambhrama, a musical evening marking the 75th birth anniversary of Sugama Sangeetha composer and singer Madikeri Nagendra, will be held on February 7, 5 pm, at JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar. The event will open with the release of his biography, 'Madikeri Nagendra — Yashogaathe', followed by the launch of 'Geethavenna Jeevana', an album featuring 11 of his original compositions. A website documenting the tradition of Sugama Sangeetha will also be launched. The evening will conclude with performances of Nagendra's compositions by singers such as Supriya Raghunandan, Meghana Bhat and Srilakshmi Belmannu. Entry free.

CITY MIX

Ganesh-Kumaresh, Spoorthi Rao chosen for Samagana honours

Renowned violinists Ganesh and Kumaresh are being honoured with the Samagana Mathanga national award on Saturday, February 7.

Bharatiya Samagana Sabha, based in Bengaluru, is hosting its 17th Indian classical music festival from February 5 to 8. Young vocalist Spoorthi Rao will be honoured with the first Samagana Vasantha award on February 5.

"The theme of this year's festival is Purana Gitam, music of devotion," says R R Ravishankar, founder chairman and managing trustee.

Dhanya Dinesh Rudrapatnam, Sivasri Skandaprasad, Archana Samasvi, Sandeep Narayan, Harishankar K S, Apoorva Krishna and Ranjani Gayatri are part of the lineup.

February 5-8, at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online. For detailed schedule, visit bharatiyasamaganasabha.org

Free contest to promote oral hygiene

Smileathon, a contest to promote oral hygiene, backed by dental experts and the Karnataka government, is open for registration until February 21. It includes mandatory free dental screening at select clinics, where participants will receive an oral hygiene score. They may then undergo recommended procedures to improve their score. People can also enter a social media contest by uploading a photo of their smile for public voting.

Registration is free, and the finale will be held on March 1 at Palace Grounds.

For details, visit ssmileathon.com.

Two men land in police net after public feud over love triangle

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two men in their late 20s were arrested by the police over a public fight sparked by a suspected love triangle, police said.

Roshan, 26, and Mamu alias Wasim, 28, reportedly liked the same girl.

Around 8.30 pm on February 1, they gathered near KR Puram with a few of their associates and got into an argument.

Mamu attacked Roshan, injuring him.

CCTV clip goes viral

CCTV footage of the incident was shared widely on social media.

The KR Puram police took up a case and tracked them down.

Minor detained, beaten, made to admit to theft; probe ordered

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has registered a suo motu case after a juvenile was allegedly detained illegally by officials of the Parappana Agrahara police station and forced to confess to a theft.

"We have registered a suo motu case following media reports. The Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) concerned has been issued a notice to physically visit the station and submit a detailed report," Shashidhar Kosambe, Chairperson, KSCPCR, told *DH*.

He said the child is stable.

"The juvenile was taken to the station for inquiry around 7 pm. It is a clear violation of the Juvenile Justice Act," he said. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, juveniles cannot be interrogated after sunset.

It is alleged that, following a complaint, the 11-year-old boy was taken to the police station, illegally detained, questioned, beaten, and forced to confess.

In a video released to the media, the minor alleged that after being taken to the police station on two days, he was tortured, beaten and threatened that his parents would be jailed, forcing him to confess.

Man abducted, beaten, robbed of gold, forced to transfer money; four arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Banashankari police have arrested four people for kidnapping a man and extorting money from him. Officials said the arrests took place on Tuesday.

The arrested suspects are Nihar from Bannerghatta, and Santhosh, Madhu and Manjunath, from JP Nagar. Police recovered Rs 39,000 from them.

Police said the suspects allegedly kidnapped Nithin Gowda, 28, from Thayagarajnagar, at 6.30 pm on January 24, forced him into an autorickshaw and drove him to a graveyard in JP Nagar.

The gang demanded Gowda share his phone password.

When he refused, they beat him up. They eventually succeeded in getting him to share the password and transfer Rs 47,000 from his bank account. They also stole his gold chain, weighing 29 grams, worth an estimated Rs 4 lakh.

The gang members handed Gowda a white envelope and filmed him, threatening that it contained drugs. They warned that if he approached the police, they would claim he was involved in drug peddling. They let him go around 11.30 pm.

Nihar ran a shop called 'Samosa Factory' in Anjanapura, Bannerghatta Road. Nihar and Gowda were considering opening an outlet together.

They had known each other for two years and had a financial relationship. Nihar frequently borrowed money from Gowda, and returned it as well.

Around 20 days ago, Gowda loaned Rs 5,000 to Nihar. But despite repeated phone calls and reminders, he refused to return it.

On the day of the kidnapping, Nihar asked Gowda to be in Banashankari 2nd Stage, where he said he would return the money, but kidnapped him instead, the police said.

Woman on evening walk robbed of gold chain at knifepoint

BENGALURU, DHNS: The police are hunting for a man who allegedly robbed a woman of her gold chain at knifepoint.

Police said the suspect waylaid Nirmala, 54, a resident of Machohalli, when she was walking in a park near the Machohalli forest at 5 pm on Monday.

Punched in the face

He threatened her with a knife and punched her in the face, causing her to fall.

The suspect then snatched a 32-gram gold chain worth around Rs 3.5 lakh from around her neck and ran into the forest, according to the FIR.

"I cried for help, but there was no one around. He was aged between 22 and 25 years, was lanky and wore a shirt and trousers," Nirmala told the police.

Nirmala informed her husband and, along with him, approached the Madanayakanahalli police to file a complaint.

A case was registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Section 309 (robbery), and a probe is under way, the police said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: SWR-SBC-1st-4thfloor-DRM
Dated : 27-01-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of S&T arrangement for modification of 1st and 4th floor of DRM Building at Bengaluru station.	Rs. 23,73,626.63

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 12:00 Hrs. on 18-02-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Bengaluru

PUB/860/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client, intend to purchase land bearing Sy No.246, measuring 3 acre 20 guntas, situated at: Melehalli Village, Kutagal Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, bounded on East by: Kondi Halla, West by: land belongs to Byraiah, S/o.Siddappa, North by: Kondi Halla, South by: Ankanahalli Road, from its owner Sri. Naveen Nischal Gowda, S/o.Sri.Chikkaraiah @K Chikkaveraiah,. If any person entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her claim/ objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **(08)** days from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/ objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said site from the owner.

Date: 03.02.2026 Sd/-

K.V.PREMA KRISHNA, Advocate,
No.943/2000 No.25, D.M.Chambers,
BEML Layout, R.R.Nagar,
Bengaluru-560098

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Gandhinagar Zone, Bashyam Park Road, Opp. Mantri Mall
Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020.

No. SADH/BCCC/GZ/E-AUCTION/01/2025-26 Date: 03-02-2025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTIFICATION

(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Gandhinagar Zone, BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BCCC invites **Sale of Scrap Vehicles, parked at Bashyam Park and Freedom Park, Bengaluru will be conducted by way of E-Auction Sale.** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**

E-Auction Schedule : (1) E-Auction documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05.02.2026. (2)** Inspection of Scrap Vehicles: **upto 07.02.2026 (during office hours). (3)** Last date to confirm participation for e-Auction : **12.02.2026 upto 4.30 pm. (4)** Live Auction bidding date & time : **18.02.2026 (12.00 pm to 12.45 pm).**

The highest rates received in the E-Auction will be considered for acceptance. The sale of Scrap Vehicles on the basis of **AS IS WHERE IS** Condition and **CAVEAT EMPTOR** principle. BCCC reserves the right to re-auction sale and the defaulting bidders, shall have no claim over this.

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Gandhinagar Zone, BCCC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL Invites Bids through KPP Portal for the following works:

1. CEE/Tr(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AE-1/2025-26/13315-21 Date:02.02.2026

Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/SE2340 for Providing Manpower Services of Data Entry Operator and Office Attendant to Operation Divisional Office, Shivamogga, MRS, Talaguppa & Chikkamagalore.

2. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-4/K-8T4/2025-26/13322-25 Date:02.02.2026

Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/ IND0254/Call-3 for manufacture, testing and supply of different sizes of 1.1kV, Class HR (Heat Resistant) PVC Insulated, Copper Control cables for maintenance works for various substations coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operation) Zone, Hassan conforming to KPTCL technical specification, F.O.R.D at store/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link "tenders" on or after **05.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of under signed.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Santhepete, B.M.Road, Hassan-573201.

Bengaluru West City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division,
2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, M.S.R. Nagara,
Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054.

No. EE/(MLM)/KPPP/14/2025-26 Date: 03.02.2026

TENDER CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1

Sub: This Office **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal Notice No.EE/MLM/KPPP/14/2025-26 Corrigendum Notice.

With reference to the above subject and tender notification No.EE/MLM/KPPP/14/2025-26, Dated: 28.01.2026. Tender as been called and there are changes in the tender as per below.

Earlier in Tender Notification	Present in Tender Notification
1) INDENT NO: BWCC/ 2025-26/SE0008	1) INDENT NO: BWCC/ 2025-26/SE0025
2) EMD Amount Rs.2,40,300/- payable in KPPP Portal	2) EMD Amount Rs.50,000/- payable in KPPP Portal

The other terms and essential conditions remain the same.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Divison, Zone-2, BWCC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to enter into transaction with regard to the agricultural lands measuring **4 Acres 05½ Guntas** excluding 01 Gunta 'B' kharab, situated in **Chudasandra Village, Sarjapura 2 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District** from its respective owners (**'Owners'**) as listed in the Schedule below (hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule Property'**).

The Owners have represented that they are the sole & absolute owners of their respective lands in the Schedule Property & that the Schedule Property is not the subject matter of any subsisting & valid mortgages, lien or charges in favour of anyone & that there are no litigations disposed/pending &/or any subsisting & valid agreements for sale or the like executed by the Owners in respect of the Schedule Property.

If any person/s have any manner of right to, interest in or claim against the Schedule Property including but not limited to any encumbrance thereon by way of a charge, mortgage or lien or being a party to any Agreement for Sale or the like or any Litigations in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may, within **07 Days** hereof submit to us such claim together with documentary proof in support thereof, failing which, it shall be presumed that there are no encumbrances, charges or lien or any valid & subsisting Agreements for Sale or the like or any Litigations, or any other claim, right, title or interest in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent		Boundaries				Owners
		Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South	
1.	66/1	1	20	Sy.No. 66/3	Remaining portion of Sy.No 66/1 measuring 10½ Guntas (out of 1 Acre 30½ Guntas)	Sy.No. 67/2	Sy.No. 66/2	(i) B.M. Shakuntala W/o. H.Govindaraju (ii) M/S. Sree Kodandarama Developers
2.	66/2	1	05½	Sy.No. 66/4	Road	Sy.Nos. 66/1 & 66/3	Sy.No. 65	(i) Kariyanna S/o. Ranganna (ii) M/S. Sree Kodandarama Developers
3.	66/3	0	14½	Road	Sy.No. 66/1	Sy.No. 67/2	Sy.No. 66/2	(i) B.M. Shakuntala W/o. H.Govindaraju (ii) M/S. Sree Kodandarama Developers
4.	66/4	1	05½	Road	Sy.No. 66/2	Sy.No. 66/1	Sy.No. 65	(i) B.M. Shakuntala W/o. H.Govindaraju (ii) M/S. Sree Kodandarama Developers

BANGALORE
DATE: 02nd February 2026

SHILPA GAUTHAM (PARTNER)
KING & PARTRIDGE, ADVOCATES
No. 48, Lavelle Road, Bangalore - 560 001. (PH: 080 22212341/42)

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

Electrical Works

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced Electrical contractors for the following works: [Two packet System]. **E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SUR/TD/T/2026/02S, Name of work:** Manning of Traction Substations (TSS) of Parewadi, Kurduwadi, Solapur, Dudhani & Kalaburgi depot of Solapur Division for a period of 02 years. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 1,19,41,949.99. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,09,700/-, **Completion period:** 24 months. **Validity of offer:** 90 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 25.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs. EXP-03

Download UTS App for Tickets

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. MC_WC_2500wagon_RSP_2R25, Dated: 29.01.2026. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room no. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work:-**Name/Description of Work:** 2500 Wagons repairs of All variant Group for ROH work at Naihati depot for 01 year; **Tender Value (in Rs.) :** ₹ 5,70,44,228.65; **Earnest Money (in Rs.):** ₹ 4,35,200.00; **Duration of Contract (in year) :** 01; **Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs):** ₹ 10,000.00; **Bidding Start Date:** 07.02.2026; **Date & Time of Closing of Tender :** 21.02.2026 at 11:00 hrs.; **Date & Timing of Tender Opening :** 21.02.2026 at 11.00 hrs.; Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from **www.ireps.gov.in** (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted.

SDAH-376/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra invites 04(Four) nos. e-tenders for CMS Crossing, TBR, TRR, Extension Line and Misc. Works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of works & Tender value** respectively : **(1); No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-12-26, Dtd. 02.02.2026;** (1) Renewal of CMS Crossing (2) Turnout fastening renewal of 1 in 8.5 T/out (3) Turnout fastening renewal of 1 in 12 T/Out(4) TFR(GFN LINER)- 8.285 Tkm, TFR (Metal liner)- 97.507 Trkm & TFR(GRSP Renewal)- 7.559 Tr.km (5) TTR(TWS) 1 in 12, TTR(TWS+WCMSC) 1 in 8.5 TTR(TWS+WCMSC) 1 in 12, TTR(DS)1 in 8.5 TTR(TSR) 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 etc. (6) Renewal of SEJ, SEJ Sleepers, 60 kg & 52 kg glued Joints (7) SEJ, Glued Joints & joggle fish plates & (8) Removal of dummy glued joints at yard etc.; ₹ 4,52,13,650.33; **(2); No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-13-26, Dtd.02.02.2026;** TBR-84.268 Tr.km Under the jurisdiction of DEN/Central/Adra in Adra Division; ₹ 4,82,12,751.81. **(3); No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-14-26, Dtd. 02.02.2026;** TRR(P) in between Muradi-Madhukunda, Damodar-Ramkanali, Anara-Purulia, Damodar-Burnpur, Anara-Chandil & Purulia-Chandil under the jurisdiction of DEN/Central/Adra in Adra Division; ₹ 5,87,76,597.32. **(4); No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-15-26, Dtd. 02.02.2026;** Extension of line no.-1 & 2 along with making line No-1 as common loop at Burnpur. (2) Extension of UP and DN Loop line at Chharra station in Adra Division. ₹ **3,94,76,401.61.** The closing date and time of e-tenders is on **02.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** (for all tenders). Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in** (for all tenders). **(PR-1136)**

E-AUCTION LEASING FOR PARCEL SPACE

E-Auction for the contract of leasing of SLRs for 03 years in trains originating from Lumding division. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment), **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No. Lease-LMG-06-26

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips
AA/1	15634-SLR-F1-GHY-BKN-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/2	15077-SLR-F1-KYQ-GTNR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/3	15603-SLR-F2-GHY-LEDO-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/4	15602-SLR-F2-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/5	15669-SLR-F2-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/6	15602-SLR-F1-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/7	15632-SLR-F1-GHY-BME-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/8	15653-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/9	15648-SLR-F1-GHY-LTT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/10	22512-SLR-F1-KYQ-LTT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/11	15815-SLR-F1-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/12	15669-SLR-R1-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/13	15602-SLR-R1-GHY-DBB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/14	15624-SLR-F1-KYQ-BGKT-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/15	15640-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/16	12346-SLR-R1-GHY-HWH-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/17	15668-SLR-F1-KYQ-GIMB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/18	15662-SLR-F1-KYQ-RNC-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/19	19306-SLR-F1-KYQ-DADN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/20	12518-SLR-F1-GHY-KOAA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/21	15644-SLR-F1-KYQ-PURI-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/22	15754-SLR-F2-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/23	15665-SLR-F2-GHY-MXN-25-4 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/24	15665-SLR-R1-GHY-MXN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/25	15669-SLR-F1-GHY-DBRG-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/26	12552-SLR-F1-KYQ-SMVB-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/27	15651-SLR-F1-GHY-JAT-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/28	13247-SLR-F1-KYQ-ARA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	628
AA/29	15603-SLR-F1-GHY-LEDO-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/30	15815-SLR-F2-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/31	15620-SLR-F1-KYQ-GAYA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/32	15636-SLR-F1-GHY-OKHA-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/33	12510-SLR-F1-GHY-SMVB-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	470
AA/34	15754-SLR-R1-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/35	15815-SLR-R1-GHY-DKGN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/36	19616-SLR-F1-KYQ-UDZ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	157
AA/37	12088-SLR-F1-GHY-NHLN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	470
AA/38	15613-SLR-F1-GHY-MZS-23-1 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/39	15754-SLR-F1-GHY-APDJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/40	15665-SLR-F1-GHY-MXN-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	1096
AA/41	22449-SLR-F1-GHY-NDLS-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	314

Auction Start Date & Time: **11.00** hrs. on **17-02-2026** & **Closing Date & Time**: **10.30** hrs. on **18-02-2026**. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding

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त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana- 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1853 **Date: 21/01/2026**

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (26) companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC0909801	U40105KA2010PTC053910	SOLAR FIELDS ENERGY PHOTO VOLTAIC INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC0957177	U40106KA2016PTC098716	TERRAL ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC1117917	U46101KA2023PTC175956	SAAPHALAYA FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC1204963	U72200KA2022PTC158079	FUTU GLOBAL READY PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC1358286	U93190KA2024OPC183718	GOENDURE ENSPIRING ACTIVITY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC1074035	U74999KA1994PTC015877	GAINWELL MEDIMART PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AB9840120	U74110KA2015FTC083025	FASTFILMZ MEDIA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC1303850	U72900KA2021PTC145416	AITAREYA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC1374232	U72900KA2021OPC147721	SRIRAM NARAYAN CONSULTING (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC0633635	U72900KA2019PTC124835	AAROGYAAI INNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC0234608	U72200KA2015PTC080216	PATNART SYSTEM LEARNING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AB9724457	U17124KA2012FTC065765	SCANTEX (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AB9848455	U72200KA2014PTC074577	KAHO LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC0388403	U72200KA2013PTC070946	MOOL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC1262958	U70200KA2025PTC203565	GROUNDWORK STUDIO PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AB9460925	U63999KA2023PTC172698	KAGDA E TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AB9940547	U62099KA2025PTC204790	NEOCIM SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC1013724	U62099KA2023OPC182947	TITRON WINGS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC0472138	U62020KA2025PTC203137	XERISE TECH PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AB9814287	U24304KA2019PTC130137	AGASTYA MAHARISHI AYURVEDAM PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC0471288	U52219KA2025PTC206658	EVERYNEED LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC1177746	U52200KA2022OPC168882	NAMMA CHOICE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC0331210	U51103KA2015PTC082219	BWB ONLINE PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC1317247	U47912KA2025PTC204916	NIRRAH COOLECTIVE PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC0977618	U28299KA2025PTC200386	GINSAN INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC1083976	U28229KA2025PTC199136	SWT LASERTECH PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0636/2526

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ವೆನ್‌ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ(1)ಸಿ-50/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-02-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವೆನ್ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ಯಾಥ್‌ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಕನ್ಸ್ಯೂಮೇಬಲ್ಸ್/ ಡಿಸ್ಪೋಸೆಬಲ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ.ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.03.2026 (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ) ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

DHFWS/2025-26/IND2158

ಸಹಿ/- ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ವೆನ್ಲಾಕ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1513/25-26 dt.03.02.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – 580 025.
ನ್ಯಾಕ 'ಎ' ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ
ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0836–2222392, 0836–2222479
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: kslu.registrar@gmail.com, ಜಾಲತಾಣ: www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಕಾವಿ/ದಾಸ್ತಾನು/ಸ್ಟೇಶನರಿ/2025–26/2334 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲೇಖನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು, ಕ.ರಾ.ಕಾ.ವಿ., ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ದಂತೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವದು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **KPPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.02.2026** ರಂದು **4.30 pm** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ದಿಶಾ/1186/2025–26

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

GEM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7169604, Dated: 02.02.2026

Medical Director, Southern Railway Headquarters Hospital, Chennai - 600023, for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per Gem Bid document given in the e-tender portal **www.gem.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / bidders intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of Mechanized cleaning contract at New Railway Hospital (NRH) complex for a period of 2 years in Railway hospital Perambur, need to get enrolled in the e-tender through portal **www.gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of EMD can also be paid through online in GeM portal as per bid document.

Description	Location	Tender Value	Earnest Money Deposit	Period of Completion
Mechanized cleaning contract at New Railway Hospital (NRH) complex for a period of 2 years.	Southern Railway Headquarters Hospital, Perambur	₹ 17,91,92,898.00/-	₹ 10,45,960.00/-	2 Years

Tender closing date and time : **23.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Details of tender value, EMD value are given in e-portal **www.gem.gov.in.** For details of bid submission please to web portal **www.gem.gov.in**

Medical Director / Railway Hospital / Perambur

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PMKVY

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- Competitive quality assurance through diverse training partnerships

CBC 63101/11/0011/2526

Interested Industry / Industry Associations / SMEs may apply through the link:
www.skillindiadigital.gov.in

Last date of proposal submission: February 13, 2026

Excise minister lists out reforms to 'curb graft', says he won't quit

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Opposition BJP and JD(S) baying for his blood, Excise Minister R B Timmapur on Tuesday ruled out resignation and listed out various reforms that he had initiated to curb corruption.

"I haven't committed any mistake. I won't resign," he told the Assembly. He was replying to a debate initiated by the Opposition on corruption in his department. "All excise ministers have faced allegations," the minister said.

"The federation of wine merchants, whose allegations are being used against me, doesn't even exist. It hasn't existed for the last 20 years. Its so-called president Guruswamy holds two excise licences. Let him state how much [bribe] he has paid," he said.

Timmapur insisted that there was no scope to make money in transfers with the introduction of counselling.

"I've introduced counselling. Also, tainted officials aren't being given executive posts. They're not even posted in their native districts. Those who've served in Bengaluru for over five years have been moved out," he said.

Reforms introduced

The minister said he had introduced reforms in excise licensing.

"In 48 hours, we've renewed 14,000 licences online," he said. "I didn't stop with online renewals. We've decided that licences will be renewed once in five years. Earlier, licences had to be renewed every year," he said.

For CL-7 (hotels & boarding houses) licences, the minister said files moved across 16 levels.

"There were delays at each step. Now, we've reduced this to 7 logins. Why did I simplify this? To curb corruption," he said, adding that 41 excise services are provided online.

"I won't say there's no corruption. But we must take up reforms," Timmapur said.

'Licensing is an adminsitrative matter'

Timmapur rubbished the audio clip in which he and his son Vinay were named. On the Lokayukta trapping excise deputy commissioner Jagadish Naik receiving a bribe, Timmapur said: "What do I have to do with this? Licensing is an adminsitrative matter. It doesn't come to the minister".

Defending e-auctions of defunct licences, Timmapur said the process was entrusted to the MSTC, a central government agency. "When a central agency handles auctions, why are allegations of corruption being made?" he said.

Timmapur pointed out that his predecessor K Goplaiah and other BJP ministers Shashikala Jolle and B C Patil did not resign when they faced corruption allegations.

"I've initiated reforms to protect future excise ministers. What's my mistake? Why should I resign?" he said.

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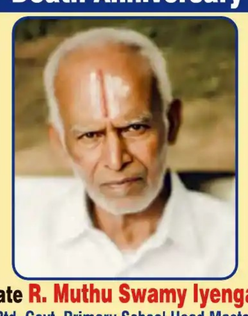
Golden Jubilee Death Anniversary



Late **R. Muthu Swamy Iyengar**
Rtd. Govt. Primary School Head Master
Birth : 25.05.1902 Death: 18.02.1976
Golden Jubilee Remembrance of Our Father 4th Feb. 2026 (Magha Bahula Tritiya)
By
Sri M.L. Prasad, Sri M. Ramanujam
Sri M Ranga Rajan
Smt M. Bhagya Lakshmi
Relatives and Friends

Chaos disrupts Council proceedings again

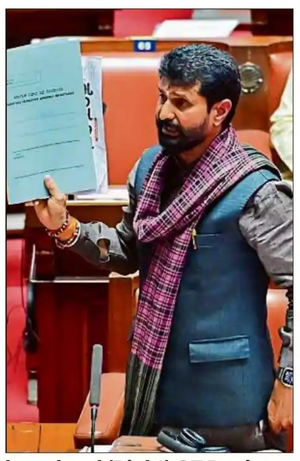
Cong, Oppn spar over Naseer Ahmed's remarks on Prime Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Council witnessed another day of disruption on Tuesday, continuing the chaos from Monday.

The Opposition BJP and JD(S) members demanded an apology from Congress MLC Naseer Ahmed for his 'uncharitable' remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ahmed expressed regret following a request from Council chairperson Basavaraj Horatti, but the Opposition party members insisted on an apology rather than mere regret.



Congress member Naseer Ahmed and (Right) C T Ravi of the BJP speak in the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

At the same time, ruling party members demanded an apology from BJP MLC C T Ravi, who had indirectly suggested that Ahmed belonged to a neighbouring country.

As the session began, the Opposition members staged a protest against Naseer Ahmed. During this, Ravi commented that anyone criticising the Prime Minister was "definitely not Indian," saying, "That person might be from some other country; he would not have uttered such a comment if he were Indian."

This sparked a heated debate between ruling and opposition members, forcing Chairman Horatti to adjourn the house and call party leaders for conciliation. The chairman also expunged Ravi's remark from the records.

Horatti requested Ravi to apologise in the interest of house functioning, but Ravi and his party refused, leading to another adjournment. Horatti expressed regret over members' conduct and warned BJP MLC N Ravikumar and Ravi to maintain decorum.

Ravi defended his statement, saying he had done nothing wrong, while the chairman noted that his comment indirectly targeted Naseer.

Law Minister H K Patil called Ravi a provocateur, saying Naseer was provoked by him, and urged him to apologise.

The exchange escalated further when Congress MLC B K Hariprasad mentioned Jeffrey Epstein, angering BJP members. Frustrated with the disruptions, MLCs Puttanna and K Shivakumar urged members to stop unnecessary debates and allow new members to participate, stressing the need to uphold the dignity and functioning of the House.

Puttanna criticised the disruptions, saying, "The entire state is watching us live, but what have we been doing the last few days? I even brought a blanket yesterday to cover myself from the telecast. We must respect the honour of this house."

Shivakumar urged the members to end unnecessary debates and let new members speak. He added, "Several new members, like me, are here to learn. We've seen inspiring leaders in this house, but recent conduct is disappointing. Let's have a healthy debate."

More peripheral cancer centres soon to ease burden on Kidwai

Bed capacity to increase at hospital in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government plans to open peripheral cancer centres (PCCs) in more districts and at all government medical college hospitals, to ease the burden on the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO).

In a written reply to a question in the Assembly, during the ongoing legislature session, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanprakash Patil said the construction of such a centre in Kalaburagi was completed and it would be upgraded from a 100-bed facility to a 240-bed facliliy. In Mysuru and Tumakuru, construction of the PCC has been completed and the department has called for tenders to purchase the required equipment. Similar PCCs are expected to come up in Shivamogga, Bidar, Raichur and Belagavi.

In May 2025, CM Siddaramaiah had inaugurated a chemotherapy day care centre at the district hospital in Mysuru. Post that, the government had decided to open daycare centres at all district hospitals. The need for new PCCs has increased owing to the large number of patients visiting KMIO for treatment.

According to data, at least 22,600 cancer patients visit the facility annually for cancer treatment. That apart, at least another 3.97 lakh patients visit the facility for follow-up treatments. As a result, the hospital is always crowded.

A number of measures have been put in place to ease the situation, Patil said. Pharmacy and laboratory services are open 24 hours to ensure patients are not inconvenienced and radiation therapy is done in three shifts. The capacity at the daycare facility is being increased from 40 beds to 60 beds and 450 new beds are being added to the existing capacity of 874 beds.

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The bids are required to be submitted with details including experience in maintaining canteen in the educational institutions. The Bidders can inspect the facility available for running the canteen during **working days from 10 AM to 5 PM, Contact: 9449653345.**
The bids are required to be submitted **on or before 14th February 2026** to the following Address.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, MANJULA GOPAL BAI, residing at Bengaluru-57 have changed my name as MANJULA BAI, vide affidavit dated 03/02/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Bhuvana S** D/o Shivaprakasha B, residing #12, Opposite to Delhi Public School, Behind Country Club, Sathanur, Bengaluru-562149, have changed our minor Son's name from **Tanay K Omesh** Alias **Tanay K O** to **TANAYKRISHNA B N** vide affidavit dated 27-01-2026 before notary M.S. Ballal, Bengaluru

I,ENITH RAJ KUMAR MANNI CHANDRASHEKAR Residing`at No.4235, VBHCS Layout 4th-Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085 have`changed my`minor Daughter's Name`from SOWMYASHREE MANNI ENITHKUMAR to SOWMYA SAHASRA MANNI ENITH vide`Affidavit Dtd:02.02.2026 Sworn`Before Notary`Deepa.M, Bengaluru

I,DIVYA BODAPATI KRISHNAPPA Residing`at No.4235, VBHCS Layout 4th-Phase,Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085 have`changed my`Name`to DIVYA ENITH vide`Affidavi Dtd:02.02.2026 Sworn`Before Notary`Deepa.M, Bengaluru

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Bhuvana S** D/o Shivaprakasha B, residing #12, Opposite to Delhi Public School, Behind Country Club, Sathanur, Bengaluru-562149, have changed our minor daughter's name from **Rishitha Omesh** Alias **Rishitha O** to **RISHITHA BHUVANA N** vide affidavit dated 27-01-2026 before notary M.S. Ballal, Bengaluru

I,ENITH RAJ KUMAR MANNI CHANDRASHEKAR Residing`at No.4235, VBHCS Layout 4th-Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085 have`changed my`minor Daughter's Name`from MITHRASHREE MANNI ENITHKUMAR to MITHRA VINDHA MANNI ENITH vide`Affidavit Dtd:02.02.2026 Sworn`Before Notary`Deepa.M, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Chandana K S** W/o Muralidhar Bhat, residing at No. 16/1/2, Gupta Layout, South - End Road Circle, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, have changed my name to **K M CHANDANA BHAT** vide affidavit dated 30-01-2026 before notary Mamatha N.K., Bengaluru.
Henceforth I shall be called **K M CHANDANA BHAT** only

I,ENITH RAJ KUMAR MANNI CHANDRASHEKAR Residing`at No.4235, VBHCS Layout 4th-Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru-560085 have`changed my`minor son's Name`from ROHITH KRISHNA MANNI ENITHKUMAR to ROHITH KRISHNA MANNI ENITH vide`Affidavit Dtd:02.02.2026 Sworn`Before Notary`Deepa.M, Bengaluru

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Kalyana K'taka drives rising backwardness, says report

Number rises to 177 in state, after spending

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

After spending Rs 32,000 crore over a decade and a half to fight regional imbalance, the number of backward taluks in Karnataka has increased to 177, a high-power committee has found, concluding that "backwardness is predominantly a north Karnataka phenomenon".

The Karnataka regional imbalances redressal committee, headed by economist M Govinda Rao, submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently.

According to a summary of the report, which *DH* has accessed, the committee has asked the government to allocate Rs 43,914 crore towards redressal of regional imbalances between 2026 and 2031.

The previous committee, headed by economist D M Nanjundappa, had found backwardness in 118 taluks.

This included 39 'most backward' taluks, 40 'more backward' and 39 'backward'. The remaining 61 were 'developed' taluks. Then, Karnataka had 175 taluks, of which 67% had backwardness.

Laggard taluks now 75%

Now, there are 236 taluks. Using its own methodology, the Rao committee has found that 59 taluks are 'most backward', 59 are 'more backward', 59 are 'backward' and 59 are 'developed'. This means there is backwardness in 75% of all taluks.

The committee noted that Karnataka had recorded "spectacular growth" with an increasing share in India's GDP.

"Despite this impressive growth credential, Karnataka is a state of contrasts. Curiously, the high growth performance has not fully translated into commensurate improvement in social indicators," it said. "This is mainly because the increase in income is concentrated in only a few districts, and large parts of the state still suffer from acute backwardness".

Only six districts have a net district development product (NDDP) above the state average - Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Tumakuru and Uttara Kannada.

Based on the recommendations of the Nanjundappa committee, the government spent Rs 32,610.24 crore from 2007-08 to 2022-23.

'Create conditions'

"Allocating more money does not necessarily improve the developmental outcomes in backward taluks and districts, if it does not result in the creation of conditions for sustained growth and development," the Rao committee said.

Within north Karnataka, Kalyana Karnataka region has emerged as the centre of the backwardness problem.

"Not a single taluk in Kalyana Karnataka region is in the 'developed' category," a member from the Rao committee pointed out.

According to the report, Kalaburagi division has the largest concentration of 'most backward' taluks, followed by Belagavi.

"In Bengaluru and Mysuru divisions, there are no 'most backward' taluks," it said.

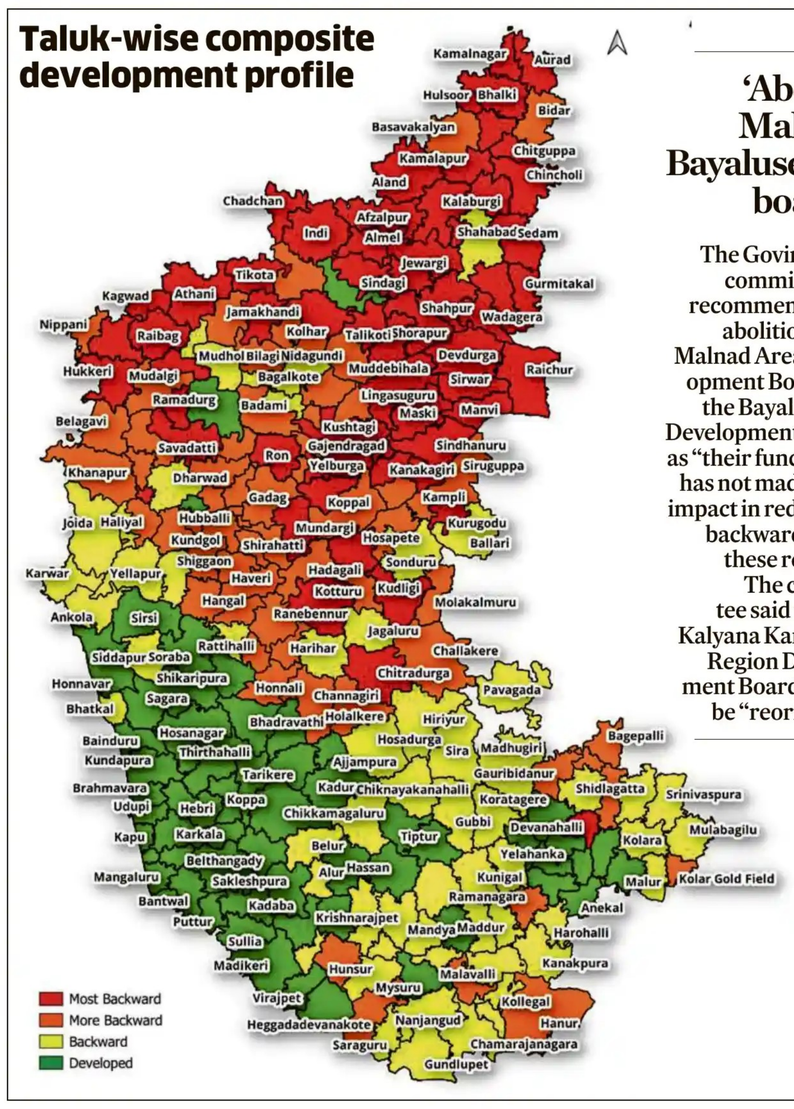
PRESCRIBED ALLOCATIONS (2026-2031)

SECTOR	OUTLAY
Agri and allied activities	Rs 2,000 cr
Irrigation	Rs 10,000 cr
Industrial development	Rs 2,000 cr
School education	Rs 12,444 cr
Higher education	Rs 500 cr
Skill development	Rs 250 cr
Healthcare	Rs 11,770 cr
Nutrition	Rs 1,000 cr
Tourism	Rs 1,000 cr
Urban development	Rs 1,450 cr
Road connectivity	Rs 1,500 cr
Total	Rs 43,914 cr

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- No new irrigation projects till existing ones are done
- Attract investments, encourage private sector
- Establish 1,484 new Karnataka Public Schools
- Specific programme on nutrition at Rs 1,000 crore
- Focused efforts to promote tourism
- Develop new towns and cities
- Ensure better air, rail & road connectivity

Taluk-wise composite development profile



'Abolish Malnad, Bayaluseeme boards'

The Govinda Rao committee has recommended the abolition of the Malnad Area Development Board and the Bayaluseeme Development Board, as "their functioning has not made much impact in redressing backwardness in these regions". The committee said that the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board should be "reoriented".

Ramzan: Change in Urdu school timings

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The timings of Urdu schools have been revised for the upcoming month of Ramzan.

The Directorate of Urdu and other Minority Language Schools has issued a circular changing the timings of government, aided, and private Urdu schools. This rule will apply from the day fasting begins in Ramzan till March 31. Every day, classes will begin at 8 am and end by 12:45 pm. The order will not apply to Urdu medium teachers assigned for SSLC exam work.

'Smart Class' facilities in 3,862 schools

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Department of School Education and Literacy has given approval to invite tenders worth Rs 91.54 crore for installing Smart Class facilities in 3,862 government primary and high schools. Under Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme, schools listed from 2022–23 to 2025–26 will get this facility.

22 kids fall sick after eating midday meal at Bidar school

AURAD (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS

Students of the Jamaalapura government primary school, who took ill after having midday meals, were rushed to the Aurad taluk hospital on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

As many as 22 children at the Jamaalapura Government Primary School took ill after having their midday meal on Tuesday, with one child having been admitted to the Bidar District Hospital for treatment.

After some of the children complained of stomach ache, and developed nausea and dysentery, the teachers grew anxious and rushed all 58 kids at the school to the Aurad Taluk Hospital, to be on the safe side. Of these, only 22 displayed signs of sickness. While 21 of the kids were treated at the taluk hospital, the doctors there deemed it best to send one girl to the Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences for further treatment.

"All the kids are safe and in good health," said Aurad Tahsildar Mahesh Patil.

Meanwhile, Aurad Taluk Health Officer Dr Gayathri blamed the children's illness on the poor quality of foodgrains used in the preparation of the meals.

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has taken cognisance of the incident, and expressed concern over such occurrences being reported in various districts across the state. Urging the officials concerned to be vigilant, the commission has directed them to take necessary steps to prevent such incidents from recurring. Meanwhile, the commission has asked the authorities in Aurad to submit a detailed report on the incident at the Jamaalapura Government Primary School.

Aurad MLA Prabhu Chavan, who interacted with the schoolchildren at the taluk hospital, directed the authorities to identify those officials whose negligence had resulted in the students falling sick, and to initiate action against the same.

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Public works department division Raichur
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PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/4483 Date: 13-01-2026

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal short term, Tender Extended Dates and additional works Tender Notification -(KW- 1, 2, 3 & 4)

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/4483 Date: 13-01-2026 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Works, Extended Date for 34 & Additional work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings, Bridges & Road works. **3)Amount of works Min:** Rs.335646. 34 Max Rs. 82779684.01 **4) EMD Amount Min:** Rs. 4200.00 Max Rs. 1242000.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 3 (Three) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months **6) Extended Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 06/02/2026 16:00:00 **7) Extended Date and Time for Opening of Tender:** 07/02/2026 16:30:00
Due to any reasons dates, retender any other changes will be notified in the KPPP Portal only, No separate paper notification will be issued & For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/692/KSMCA/695/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, Halasuru Lake Tank Bund Road, Halasuru, Begaluru-560042

No.: AEE(SJN)/PR/Quot/03/2025-26 **Date: 03.02.2026**

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Item rate quotation are invited under Rules 2000 of KTPP to take up the work of providing table and chair equipment to Ambedkar Community Hall at M.V. Garden in Ward No. 121, Halasuru for newly constructed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Community Hall in the M.V. Garden office jurisdiction of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Sub-Division, Zone-2 office.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their bids in a sealed envelope to reach this office on or before **4:30 PM** on **06.02.2026** during office hours. Bids received after the deadline will be rejected. Bids will be opened on the same day at **5:00 PM** in the presence of those present and action will be taken for rate approval.

Terms and Conditions: (1) The undersigned officers reserves the right to accept or reject the quotation. **(2)** For more details contact the above office. **(3)** The rates approved in the said quotation are for inclusion in the estimate list only.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, Bangalore Central City Corporation

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division
No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore-560011. PH : 08026570088.

No.EE/CKP/E-PROC/11/2025-26 **Date: 03.02.2026**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

1. The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) invites Request for Proposal from interested Firms /Organization those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy services for Project Management Consultancy of Tender papers for the below mentioned works invited through eProcurement system by the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division. **2.** The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Consultancy Services for Project Management Consultancy for the work of Construction of New and Additional floor to BBMP School and PU college buildings at Banappa Park, Mothinagar, Chamarajapete, Kasturibanagar and Vijayanagara Bengaluru.Call-2. Estimate Cost **Rs. 1230.00 Lakhs,** EMD **: Rs.30,750/-**

Calender of events :
1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **07.02.2026 at 15.00** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011**. 2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **11.02.2026 upto 16.00. 3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **12.02.2026 by 4.30. 4)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Chickpete Division.

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Autonomous body of Government of Karnataka)
Irwin Road, Mysuru, - 570 001.
Ph.No. : +91-0821-2520512, Website: www.mmcri/karnataka.gov.in **E-mail:** mmcrimysore@yahoo.com

No.: MMC&RI/Tender/01/2025-26 **Date:** 02.02.2026

TENDER AND SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub : Invitation of Tender and Short Term Re-Tender for the supply of Cathlab Surgicals & Equipment to the Attached Hospital of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore

The Tender and Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the Supply of Cathlab Surgicals and Equipment to the attached hospital of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore. The Tender documents may bid download from E-procurement websit: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected.

Sl. No.	Tender/ Short term Re-Tender	Commence Date of Tender submission	Last Date of Tender submission	Tender Amount (Rs.Lakhs)
1	Sup/Viva/82/2025-26 Cathlab Surgicals	03.02.2026	17.02.2026	80.00
2	Equipment/45/2025-26 Ophthalmology Equipment	03.02.2026	04.03.2026	191.00

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/1598/SA/2025-26

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website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/P2/18/2025-26 Dated 02/02/2026

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from experienced OEMs or their authorised agents for supply of the following item, on the Indian Railways e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Tender No: P2265010 **Brief Item Description :** Circular Lifting Magnet for lifting cold as well as hot Material up to 600° C in foundry environment. **Quantity:** 2 Nos **Tender Closing Date and Time :** 23/02/2026 at 14:00 hrs

Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in** or www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents and the corrigendum to the Tender if any, will be available on the portal only.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Davangere.
Zillapanchyath Building, 2nd Floor, Lokikere Road, Davangere
e-mail: eerwsdvg@gmail.com Phone No: 08192-262126

No: RWS&SD:Dn/DVG/AE-2/1623 Date: 31.01.2026

POSTPONEMENT OF TENDER (Through e-procurement only)

The tender called vide this Office Notification 1577/2025-26: Dated 22/01/2026 for S.I.no-3 &5 Work the calendar of events has been Post poned due to Technical reason
(1) Last date & Time for applying tenders: 16/02/2026 at 5.00PM **(2)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid: 17/02/2026 at 5.15 PM **(3)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial bid: 19/02/2026 at 11.00 AM
All other terms and condition remains unaltered.
For further information the bidder can view on the kppp Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Contact No: 08192-262126

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಜಿ/707/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer RWS Division, Davanagere

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ತಿಪಟೂರು, ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–572201.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ (ಕಛೇರಿ): 08134–250156, (ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು): 08134–253018
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmctiptur@rediffmail.com, apmctiptur@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ತಿ/ಅಭಿವಿ/2025–26/1812–13 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31.01.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.ತಿಪಟೂರು 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ 03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
01	APMC/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 809(KW-4)	ರೂ.243.00 ಲಕ್ಷ	ದಿ:07–03–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04–00 ಗಂಟೆ
02	APMC/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 774 (KW-4)	ರೂ.209.96 ಲಕ್ಷ	
03	APMC/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 813(KW-3)	ರೂ.66.59 ಲಕ್ಷ	ದಿ:21–02–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04–00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ನ್ಯಾಮಗೌಡ)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ತಿಪಟೂರು

ಸಹಿ/–(ಡಾ॥ ವಿ.ರಾಜಣ್ಣ)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ, ತಿಪಟೂರು

ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560100.
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸಕೋ/ತಾಶಾ/10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–02–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ., 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಶೇ. 17.15 ಮತ್ತು 7.25 ಹಾಗೂ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಅದರಂತೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ** ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇರಿಸಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ
1	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT54736	1.50	126916.00	3173.00	General
2	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT54734	2.00	169460.00	4236.00	General
3	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT54733	4.50	380472.00	4756.00	S.C
4	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54741	45.00	3809984.00	76199.00	General
5	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT54754	9.10	770045.00	9625.00	CAT-IIA
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54751	8.78	743187.00	18580.00	General

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1, 2, 3 ಮತ್ತು 4 ಕ್ಕೆ 11–02–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 5 ಮತ್ತು 6 ಕ್ಕೆ 18–02–2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1, 2, 3 ಮತ್ತು 4 ಕ್ಕೆ 12–02–2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 5 ಮತ್ತು 6 ಕ್ಕೆ 19–02–2026**. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/5390/ಅಡ್ಡಟೋರ್/2025–26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No:12/2025-26: Dated: 28.01.2026
Ref : 1) EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ Tender Notification No:12/2025-26: Dated: 14.10.2025
2) No:EE/KNNL/BDN-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 12/2025-26: Dated: 25.11.2025

Tender Notification-Call-3 (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.523.46 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.7.86 Lakhs** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **02.02.2026 to 18.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **19.02.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd:**13.02.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 12 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-02-02/ zenkar/2025-26

Reserving judgment for months is an ailment: SC

Says practice is challenge before judiciary, must be eradicated

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the practice of reserving judgments for months by high courts without making them public is an "identifiable ailment" and it must be eradicated.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said there are broadly two kinds of judges: one is a hard-working judge who will hear everybody and reserve judgment in 10-15 matters, and there are some judges who, after this, would not deliver the judgments.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT
Chief Justice of India

"In my 15 years as a HC judge, I never ever reserved a judgment and did not deliver judgment within three months..

"We are not on anyone individually. This is a challenge before the judiciary, and this is an identifiable ailment. It has to be treated and eradicated, and it cannot be allowed to spread," the bench said.

The court was hearing a plea that said the Jharkhand High Court orally pronounced a judgment dismissing a petition on December 4, 2025, and the verdict has not yet been uploaded. The court said a complete judgment should be provided to the counsel by the end of next week.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the litigant, said, "It seems some kind of lip service is going on. Some message has to go. This amounts to playing with the majesty of law."

The court also targetted to another prevalent trend that in some cases arguments were heard, and those cases are again posted for further directions.

The CJI also said he would raise this issue in his upcoming meeting with the chief hustices of High Courts. "We will discuss this among other agendas. We will try to find a solution so that such avoidable litigation ends," he said.

The bench noted that the Jharkhand HC pronounced the judgment on December 4, 2025, where the writ petition was dismissed, but the judgment has not been uploaded yet. "We have impressed upon the counsel appearing for the high court that there is no rhyme or reason for such delay. Let a complete judgment be provided to the counsel by the end of next week," the bench said.

The court listed the matter in the week commencing on February 16. The court in November 2025 had directed all HCs to submit detailed reports on timelines for reserved judgments, including dates of reservation, pronouncement and uploading.

Kerala 'Kumbh Mela' sparks political tussle

BJP accuses Congress, CPM of showing lukewarm response

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

FAITH & POLITICS

- Historic 'Mamamgam' revived on the banks of Bharathapuzha
- Lakhs attend; organisers eye Prayag-style expansion
- BJP says CPM and Cong hesitant to participate, fearing impact on minority politics

The Mahamagham Mahotsavam — dubbed the 'Kerala Kumbh Mela' — on the banks of the Bharathapuzha river not only marked the revival of a major spiritual-social event after 271 years, but also carried political undertones, with the BJP and Sangh Parivar outfits trying to use it for their narratives ahead of the Assembly polls.

Buoyed by the massive response, organisers are now planning a Maha Kumbh Mela on the lines of the Prayag Maha Kumbh in 2028.

As the event in Malappuram district draws to a close on February 3, BJP-Sangh Parivar groups have accused the Congress and CPM of showing a lukewarm response. Initial objections raised by a state government agency against building a temporary bridge across the river have also been given political colour by the BJP-Sangh Parivar camp.

BJP state committee member O Nidheesh openly alleged that the CPM and Congress were hesitant to participate in the event, fearing it could affect their minority appeasement politics.

However, the organisers sought to distance themselves from political narratives. "Even today, Congress MLA Chandy Oommen is attending the event. There is no politics here," said Rajesh Varma of the Mohanji Foundation, one of the key organisers.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also praised the event in a social media post on Monday, while the state government extended support by arranging special buses.

The event, which began on January 18, was revived through the initiative of the Hindu monastic order Juna Akhara.

It is believed that the festival originated when Parasurama performed the first yaga on the banks of the Bharathapuzha for the welfare of the universe. It later came to be known as Mamamgam.

"Until 271 years ago, it was celebrated every 12 years as a major cultural and spiritual gathering. Over time, it faded away. Now we have revived it and witnessed the participation of lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad. We will soon begin preparations for the Maha Kumbh Mela in 2028," Varma told *DH*.

DGCA finds no fault in Boeing fuel control switch

NEW DELHI, PTI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday said Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, which faced fuel control switch glitch, took off from London on February 1 after the crew carried out a physical check of the switch and that no abnormal parameters were observed during start of the engine or thereafter.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) detailed statement explaining the sequences related to the Dreamliner also came against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters on the aircraft operating the flight despite the fuel control switch issue.

The regulator said that no abnormal engine parameters, cautions, or warnings were observed during engine start or at any time thereafter.

"The operating crew member was briefed, unnecessary contact with the switch was avoided, and engine indications and alerting systems were closely monitored by the crew for the remainder of the flight," the statement said.

An IndiGo Airbus A320 and an Air India Airbus A320 are seen on the taxiway at Mumbai airport after their wing tips reportedly touched during taxiing. PTI

Wings of two aircraft collide at Mumbai airport

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

An Air India jet and an IndiGo flight were involved in an on-ground collision at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday. It happened when the right wing tips of the two aircraft brushed past each other.

Both the planes had passengers on board at the time of the incident.

While the Air India AI 2732 was to fly from Mumbai to Coimbatore, and was on pushback, IndiGo 6E 791 , which had come to Mumbai from Hyderabad, was taxiing.

No injuries were reported.

Details about the number of passengers could not be immediately ascertained.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, which happened at around 7.30 pm.

"Flight AI2732 operating from Mumbai to Coimbatore on 3 February was delayed after the aircraft scheduled to operate the service came into contact with another airline's aircraft while waiting on the taxiway prior to take-off. The wingtips of the two aircraft made contact, resulting in damage to our aircraft's wingtip," an Air India spokesperson said.

"As a precautionary measure, the aircraft has been grounded for further technical checks. All passengers were safely disembarked, and our ground teams are making alternative arrangements to fly them to their destination at the earliest. The incident has been reported to the regulator," the spokesperson added.

DRDO tests tech that will be at core of air-to-air missiles

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DRDO successfully carries out a flight demonstration based on SFDR technology. PTI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Tuesday carried out a successful demonstration trial of the home-grown ramjet engine technology, as it aims to perfect a closely guarded technology for making long-range air-to-air missiles.

"The demonstration of solid fuel ducted ramjet technology was conducted from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, at around 1045 hours. Its success places India into an elite league of nations having such a technology that enables developing long-range air-to-air missiles to give a tactical edge over the adversaries," said an official.

SFDR is an advanced missile propulsion technology on which the DRDO has been working for over a decade.

This will be at the core of the futuristic Astra Mk-III beyond visual range missile with a range of 190 km to 240 km, depending on the target's altitude.

The DRDO carried out the first trial in 2018, after which a few more tests were conducted in the process of evaluating the technology. The test on Tuesday off the coast of Odisha happened four years after the last one. The performance of the system was confirmed by the flight data captured by a number of tracking instruments deployed by ITR.

"All the subsystems, including nozzle-less booster, solid fuel ducted ramjet motor and fuel flow controller performed as per expectations after being initially propelled by a ground booster motor to the desired Mach number," the ministry said in a statement.

The SFDR-based propulsion would enable the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds, officials said.

Three DRDO laboratories — Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad; High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune; and Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad — are working on this project.

Amid disruption, CM moves resolution against VB-G RAM G

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday tabled a resolution in the Legislative Assembly seeking the scrapping of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G–RAM G) Act and restoration of the MGNREGA.

Moving the resolution, Siddaramaiah asserted that the new law undermined rural employment, decentralisation and constitutional guarantees. He said that the MGNREGA ensured demand-based employment to all sections and prevented large-scale rural migration, particularly during the Covid-19 period.

The CM alleged that under VB - G RAM G, the Centre would decide the nature and location of works, bypassing Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in violation of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

He said the shift from a demand-driven to a supply-based model and the entry of contractors had weakened employment guarantees and local self-governance.

Siddaramaiah said that the 60:40 Centre–State funding pattern would burden financially stressed states, reduce women's participation in the workforce and increase pressure on Dalit and Adivasi families. The resolution demanded restoration of 100 days of guaranteed employment, equal and inflation-linked wages, a uniform national minimum wage of Rs 400 per day, reinstatement of the ban on contractors and full central funding of wages.

The resolution, once adopted by the Assembly, would be forwarded to the Centre and the President, Siddaramaiah said.

CM loses cool

The Opposition BJP disrupted proceedings when Siddaramaiah moved the resolution against the VB-G RAM G, objecting to the lack of prior notice and the description of the resolution as "unanimous".

An angry Siddaramaiah asked Congress lawmakers to rise up and counter the BJP.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said the government could move the resolution but should not claim it had unanimous support.

"Let them please their high command, but do not say it is unanimous," he said.

Speaker U T Khader clarified that if unanimity was absent, the resolution would be recorded as passed by the House on majority. BJP MLA Sunil Kumar objected to the wording in the resolution copy, prompting the Speaker to direct members to refer to the agenda version.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad argued that House rules required a seven-day notice. Ruling otherwise, Khader cited Rule 147, which allows the government to move a resolution at any time.

Eight MPs suspended from Lok Sabha for...

Eight MPs, From Page 1

Lok Sabha could not conduct any substantial business as it was initially adjourned over the Opposition protest on the trade deal with the US and later involving Rahul's speech.

Indicating that the Opposition is ready for a 'full-blown confrontation', Rahul led a protest outside the Parliament House, soon after the House was adjourned. He told reporters that Modi is 'compromised' and he is 'too afraid' to let him speak in Parliament "about Naravane, Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on tariffs".

Rijiju said they have conveyed to the Congress that Rahul could resume his speech, but should not refer to the book and because of his actions, other MPs are losing opportunities.

As he was called to speak at 2 pm, Rahul said he 'authenticated' a copy of an article, which cited Gen MM Naravane's 'memoir' and said the President's speech was related to India's relationship with China and Pakistan and the article quoted reactions of the prime minister. Rijiju then said the Speaker has passed a ruling on the matter and after that Rahul should not raise it.

Rahul said the President's address was about the path India has to chart and the main issue in international affairs is the conflict with the US and China. "This is central to the President's address and the Budget and I want to make a statement about what happened, how the PM reacted to it..." he said.

Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the chair, said the LoP was repeatedly referring to issues which were disallowed by the Speaker and then went on to call Samajwadi Party's Naresh Uttam Patel, Trinamool Congress' Shatabdi Roy and DMK's DM Kathir Anand, but they refused to speak.

TDP's GM Balayogi was then called and as he started speaking, the Opposition MPs rushed to the Well with eight of them climbing the table near the Secretary General and tearing papers and throwing it at the Chair, prompting Tenneti to adjourn the House till 3 pm.

When the House reconvened, BJP MP Dilip Saikia, who was chairing the proceedings, named the eight lawmakers, following which the House adopted a resolution to suspend them.

Contractors' body fires honorary president

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) on Tuesday said it has removed its honorary president Jagannath Shegaji following corruption allegations against him.

Shegaji denied the allegation that he sought kickbacks after a video of his went viral.

"The KSCA has no link to this incident. I apologise for this. A fact-finding committee has been constituted," KSCA president R Manjunath said.

Shegaji has been accused of demanding a 3% cut from contractors in tenders.

"It's a lie. The conservation happened in the office of the directorate of municipal administration where a 3% cut has been fixed for contractors. I didn't demand the kickback," he said.

DATE WITH THE DIVINE

Hundreds of devotees take part in the famous annual car festival of Channabasaveshwara at Ulavi in Joida taluk in Uttara Kannada district on Tuesday. Ulavi, connected with the 12th-century saint Channabasavanna, is a famous pilgrimage site, known for devotion, annual festivals and spiritual gatherings. DH PHOTO

US trade deal almost done...

Trade, From Page 1

"India-US trade deal will further expand and deepen trade between two of the largest economies of the world. It will create more opportunities for our labour-intensive and manufacturing sectors in the US market and give impetus to mutually-beneficial collaboration in high and advanced technology sectors," said Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava.

The deal announcement led to a surge in the value of Indian rupee and stock markets. The benchmark Sensex and Nifty jumped by around 2.5% that led to over Rs 12 lakh crore jump in combined market capitalisation of the BSE listed company. India Inc has welcomed the deal saying it would help accelerate growth and expand exports.

"This agreement is not just about tariffs; it provides certainty for investors, enhances the supply chains' resilience, and lays the foundation for deeper collaboration," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of industry body CII.

According to Goldman Sachs, the tariff cut by the US would boost India's GDP growth by 20 basis points to 6.9% in the calendar year 2026.

Oppn stages all-night stir seeking...

Excise, From Page 1

"In this, the officer says that the minister and his son Vinay take a cut in the bribe. When a complaint was filed, the case was closed after Nagarajappa denied that it was his voice on the call. No forensic examination was done," he said.

Ashoka pulled up another transcript, this one involving Excise Deputy Commissioner Nagashayana.

"Here, the officer says work will get done if Kuruba leaders approach (chief minister) Siddaramaiah or his son Dr Yathindra," he said.

The BJP leader also read out a voluntary statement made by excise official Ningappa before the Lokayukta. "He said he met the minister at a Madiwala hotel to discuss transfers.

He has provided audio recordings in three pendrives," Ashoka added.

"Money is fixed for transfers. It is Rs 2.5-3.5 crore for deputy commissioners, Rs 25-30 lakh for superintendents, Rs 40-50 lakh for inspectors and Rs 5-8 lakh for constables. Constables themselves hold multiple excise licences," Ashoka said.

The Opposition also pointed out that Excise Deputy Commissioner Jagadish Naik was recently trapped by the Lokayukta while taking a bribe.

"In the BJP government, Excise Minister H Nagesh was made to resign following corruption allegations. RDPR Minister KS Eshwarappa also resigned on the basis of one statement alleging bribery. Here, despite so much evidence, Timmapur hasn't quit," Ashoka said.

India mum on stopping Russian...

Oil, From Page 1

The American President had said that Washington would lower the reciprocal tariff on India from 25% to 18%, and New Delhi would abolish the tariffs and non-tariff barriers on imports from the US. He had not clarified whether Washington would also withdraw the additional 25% tariff on Indian exports imposed in August 2025 to dissuade it from buying oil from Russia.

A spokesperson for the US embassy in New Delhi, however, confirmed that the final tariff on imports from India would be reduced to 18%.

"Well played, President Trump. I think your message about ending this war — by having Putin's customers who prop up his war machine have to recalculate — is working," Senator Lindsey Graham posted on X. "Through their behaviour, India has more than earned this reduction. I'm hoping that the other big nations that buy Russian oil will follow India's direction," said Graham, who sponsored the Sanctioning Russia Bill 2025. The Bill seeks to empower the American President to slap up to 500% tariffs on countries buying oil from Russia.

"Putin will only come to the table when the pain is so great. We're not there yet, but with India's actions, we are moving closer. End the bloodbath in Ukraine now," he added.

SC slams WhatsApp, Meta; says can't play...

Meta, From Page 1

As the counsel said there is an opt-out choice for the consumer, the bench then asked, "What do you mean by opt-out? Then opt-out is that you opt out of the country, and withdraw your facilities from here."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said privacy and personal information were "not only sold but commercially exploited".

The bench asked how a poor lady selling fruits on the street will understand the terms and conditions of a very cleverly crafted language. "Even some of us will not understand that language," it said.

"Please show your mobile. You show how this opt-out business operates, nobody will be able to understand you," the bench said.

The court said it would like to examine how the data is rented out by WhatsApp and how people are targeted with ads after analysing their behavioural trends.

The counsel contended that WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted and that even WhatsApp cannot see the messages sent between two users.

The bench, however, said the new data protection law does not address the issue of "value" on data sharing, unlike the EU Regulations.

Rohatgi submitted before the bench that Meta will file an affidavit explaining their activities and then the bench may take a call. The bench decided to post the matter further hearing on February 9.

PACT ROW: Says people were criticising it, but we remained patient, and it yielded results

India-US trade deal a big decision: PM Modi

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the India-US trade deal a "big decision" that will benefit every section of society in the country.

Modi made these remarks while addressing a meeting of the NDA MPs in parliament on Tuesday morning

Asking the party's MPs to speak about the benefits of the Budget amongst the people and to be present in the House during discussions, PM Modi also said that he had spoken about a change in the world order when the Covid pandemic broke out, and now that "world order is tilting to India's benefit".

PM Modi was also felicitated and congratulated by the lawmakers on the trade deal.

"India will not buy oil from countries where there are sanctions. There will be no impact on Indian agricultural products. India did not buy oil from Venezuela when it was under sanctions," the PM was quoted as saying by the lawmaker.

PM Modi also said at the NDA parliamentary party meeting that all MPs should be present in the House and participate in the discussions. He added that MPs must go among the people and inform them about the achievements of the budget.

He told the MPs that the US trade deal has created a positive atmosphere. "People were criticising it, but we remained patient, and it yielded results. Now, manufacturing should increase, and we should produce quality products," an MP from the South quoted the PM as saying.

The PM also mentioned Sadanandan Master, a Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala, and said that this is the sacrifice of a party worker whose leg was amputated. He also said that this Budget has been prepared keeping the next twenty-five years in mind, and that MPs should go and explain this to the public.

The prime minister also spoke about the political situation and said that there are many small parties across the country that are joining hands with them, and now, this number has crossed 50%. "This shows how much acceptance our political ideology has, both domestically and internationally," he said.

PM Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, JP Nadda, Minister of State Anupriya Patel, BJP National president Nitin Nabin and others during the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, at Parliament premises in New Delhi. PTI

WHAT THEY SAID

S JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

"This will create more jobs, spur growth and promote innovation in both economies. It will strengthen 'Make in India' endeavors and encourage trusted technology ties.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
Kerala CM

"The reported US-India trade deal raises serious concerns. Slashing tariffs and non-tariff protections will hurt Indian farmers, workers and domestic industry, while pushing the country into an unequal, subordinate position. The full agreement must be placed before Parliament and the public. Any provision that compromises livelihoods, food security and economic sovereignty must be firmly resisted.

VEENA SIKRI
Ex-diplomat

"I think the most important aspect is that India's response at every stage was very calm and restrained. There was no histrionics, no anger. It was very, very subdued and very collected.

Modi buckled under pressure: Oppn

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Tuesday mounted a spirited attack on the Union government over the Indo-US trade deal, with the Congress claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "buckled" under US pressure to finalise the agreement and "sold out" the hard work of Indian farmers.

The issue was raised in the Lok Sabha, forcing an adjournment for nearly an hour, while Opposition MPs staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha in protest against the deal.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said farmers must realise that their hard work, blood and sweat had been sold out by Modi through the agreement, claiming the prime minister was "compromised".

"He has not just sold you off, but the whole country. That is why they are not allowing me to speak (in Parliament)," he told reporters.

The CPM Polit Bureau said in a statement that the announcement had generated "euphoria in the corporate media", but this was "completely misplaced" since the details of the agreement were not yet available.

It said that a proper assessment could only be made once the full scope of the trade deal was known. However, it pointed out that Donald Trump's announcement stated Indian goods imports would face an 18% tariff, while India would reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US goods to zero.

"Eliminating tariffs will flood the country with US goods, which will adversely impact industries and workers' livelihoods. Removal of non-tariff barriers would mean eliminating subsidies and other measures which support Indian farmers," it said.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that millions of farmers in India wanted clarity on the terms of the trade agreement. She questioned whether the Modi government was planning to fully open the Indian agricultural sector to America, whether Indian farmers would be pushed into direct competition with American companies, and whether any compromise had been made on their interests.

Criticising the government, Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh said that India stood diminished by the sequence of events. He said that, based on the information provided by Trump, it was "abundantly clear" that Modi had "completely surrendered".

Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, and others protest the suspension of eight MPs from the LS and the US trade deal on Tuesday. PTI

UNEQUAL TERMS

- Walkout, adjournment as Opposition protests India-US agreement
- CPM calls media 'euphoria' misplaced, flags unequal trade terms
- Warns of flood of US goods, threat to farmers' livelihoods

> Opening Indian markets to American agricultural produce amounted to "betrayal" of nearly 70 per cent of the country's population dependent on farming.
> **Akhilesh Yadav,** SP chief

'Historic betrayal': Farmers' body calls for campaign against govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of various farmer unions, slammed the government over the India-US trade deal for its "historic betrayal" of farmers and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "shamelessly bowing to the dictates of Donald Trump".

In a statement, it reminded the prime minister of his Independence Day speech last year, saying Modi had declared from the ramparts of the Red Fort that "he was personally ready to pay a heavy price to protect the interests of the farmers".

The farmers' body claimed the deal will allow the US to flood the Indian markets with highly subsidised agricultural products, destroying the country's farm sector.

Reacting to the development, the umbrella body of various farmer unions, which had led the 2020-21 farmers' protests, said, "The SKM strongly condemned the betrayal of the people, especially farmers, by the Modi government allowing zero per cent import tariff on US goods, surrendering to the pressure of US Imperialism."

"This trade deal to allow Indian markets to be flooded by highly subsidised US agricultural products will devastate the entire peasantry in India," it said.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) said the US has 18.8 lakh farmers according to a 2024 survey, compared to 14.65 crore operational holdings in India as per the agricultural census of 2015.

Highlighting that 48% of the workforce and 65% of the population depend on agriculture and allied sectors, the SKM said, "Farmers will never forgive Modi for this historic betrayal."

It called for a campaign against the Modi government from February 4 to 11 and a general strike on February 12.

Rahul writes to LS Speaker over not being allowed to speak

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday registered his "strongest protest" with Speaker Om Birla for not being allowed to speak on the President's Address in Lok Sabha, saying it is a "blot on our democracy".

Separately, he also claimed that a "compromised" PM Narendra Modi is "afraid" to let him talk about "Gen Naravane, Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on tariffs".

Rahul also led a protest at the Parliament following the adjournment of Lok Sabha after protests erupted over the Leader of the Opposition not being allowed to continue his speech on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and the suspension of eight Opposition MPs.

In a letter to the Speaker, Rahul said he had authenticated an article he intended to refer to on Birla's directions, and as he fulfilled the requirement, he should be allowed to speak.

"Preventing me from speaking in the Lok Sabha today not only violates the convention (allowing to speak after authenticating the document) but also gives rise to a serious concern that there is a deliberate attempt to prevent me, in my capacity, as the LoP, from speaking on matters of national security," he said.

Wangchuk given fair treatment, all procedures followed: SC told

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Tuesday stoutly defended before the Supreme Court its decision to detain Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk and claimed that it has followed all the procedures in its exercise under the National Security Act.

Sonam Wangchuk

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale that, keeping in view the nature of the power under the NSA, a certain leeway is given to the statutory authority.

Opposing the plea of Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of Wangchuk, challenging his preventive detention, Mehta alleged that in his speech, the activist had claimed that Ladakhis do not have the right to choose their representatives.

"It is unacceptable that Ladakhis cannot choose their own representatives. China, Tibet, etc., have autonomous rights'," Wangchuk had said, Mehta claimed. He submitted that there were no flaws in his detention order.

"The claim of his wife of illegality done in the process is wrong," he said.

Mehta claimed that his statements or speeches also amounted to a threat to the public order. "The security of India, threat to public order, and disruption of supplies are all seen in the speeches," Mehta said.

Should the cops get shot instead? CM defends UP encounters

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Days after Allahabad High Court's sharply rebuked the Uttar Pradesh government over the rising trend of cops shooting the accused in the legs during alleged encounters, CM Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the police had been trained to make the "criminals understand the way that they understand".

"Should the police get shot, if not shoot... both things can't go on simultaneously", Adityanath said. "If the criminals have the freedom to fire, then the police too have the same freedom... the police have been given pistols and training to deal with the criminals the way they understand," he added.

The remarks came days after the HC came down heavily on the state government over the rising trend of shooting the accused in the legs. The court had then also said that senior UP police officers had been pressuring the judges to pronounce "specific orders".

Mamata mulls impeachment of CEC

Says open to working with Opposition parties to bring motion in Parliament

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI DHNS

CM Mamata Banerjee during a presser regarding the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that the Trinamool Congress is open to working with the Congress and other Opposition parties in Parliament to make a move to impeach Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Mamata continued her tirade against the EC over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal and presented before the media persons some of the 'victims' of the process. They included people who had been allegedly declared dead by the poll panel and dropped from the draft list published on December 16 after the enumeration phase of the revision process.

A day after storming out of a meeting with the CEC, the TMC supremo reiterated her allegation about the poll panel conducting the SIR in West Bengal to ensure an advantage for the BJP over the TMC in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

"People sitting behind us are all SIR victims. I could have brought here lakhs of people affected by the roll revision exercise," Mamata said. "They (the EC) are not allowing SIR victims to defend themselves and their rights to vote."

The CM accused the CEC of being arrogant during the meeting with the TMC delegation on Monday. "Whatever we asked, he never replied; he was threatening us," she alleged, adding:

EC sources, however, dismissed the TMC leader's allegations and claimed that she and other members of her delegation had repeatedly interrupted the CEC when he had started responding after carefully listening and noting down all the concerns expressed by them over the exercise.

"We also want him (Kumar) to be impeached," she said, when a journalist asked whether her party supported Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's plan to bring a law in the future with retrospective effect to hold the CECs and the ECs accountable. "We don't have numbers (in Parliament), but there is a provision. It would be recorded. If they (Congress) do something like this, we will also discuss with our party MPs. When there is public interest, we work together."

She, however, ruled out any possibility of an electoral alliance between the TMC and the Congress for the forthcoming elections. "We fight alone in Bengal," said the TMC chief.

Didi may attend SC hearing today

The Supreme Court will hear on Wednesday a plea filed by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee challenging the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in the state, reports PTI.

Banerjee may attend the apex court on Wednesday during the crucial hearing. Sources say that the CM, who has an LLB degree, may attend court and put forth her submissions.

Annamalai quits as election in-charge

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Days after he was appointed as the party's election in-charge for six Assembly constituencies, former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai sprung a surprise on Tuesday by stepping down from the responsibility, citing his father's ill-health.

K Annamalai

Though Annamalai said he has declined the election work responsibility as he is not in a position to travel since he has to be in Coimbatore to tend to his father, sources said that he was upset with the state leadership for confining him to six seats.

Annamalai, who has been feeling sidelined ever since he stepped down as the state chief to facilitate the BJP's alliance with the AIADMK, was brought to the centre stage by the Central leadership in December to bring back AMMK's TTV Dhinakaran into the NDA.

He had been keeping away from participating in events organised by the state unit and was also disappointed with the way the BJP was dealing with AIADMK. Annamalai has been hogging the limelight in almost all events attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Annamalai, who took both Dravidian parties head-on, is also believed to be upset with the BJP leadership's soft approach towards the AIADMK. "It was not fair to ask him to oversee election work in just six Assembly seats. He should be used extensively across the state," a senior BJP leader told *DH*. Another leader said the state leadership does not know how to utilise the services of leaders like Annamalai, who has a significant following among the BJP cadres.

State BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran had last week appointed Annamalai as the election in-charge for Karaikudi, Singanallur, Srivaikuntam, Virugambakkam, Madurai (South), and Padmanabhapuram assembly constituencies.

BJP infighting spills onto UP streets

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Notwithstanding claims that "all is well", the tussle between the government and the party organisation has spilled onto the streets in Uttar Pradesh, adding to the woes of the BJP ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls.

A public spat between UP minister Swatantra Dev Singh and BJP lawmaker Brijbhushan Rajput during the former's visit to Mahoba district over alleged false claims regarding the implementation of development schemes a few days ago brought to the fore the fault lines within both the party and the government.

Rajput forced the minister's cavalcade to stop and publicly accused him of neglecting the district and making false claims that development schemes—especially those related to the supply of potable water—had been successfully implemented.

As the minister and the MLA engaged in a verbal duel, their supporters clashed, prompting officials to intervene.

Barely a few days earlier, UP minister of state Pratibha Shukla had accused party MP from the Misrikh Lok Sabha seat, Ashok Rawat, of corruption, alleging the use of sub-standard material in the construction of a road funded through his MPLAD allocation. Rawat hit back, saying the allegations were "politically motivated".

Shukla had earlier also staged a dharna against her party MP Devendra Singh Bhole, accusing him of trying to pit Brahmins against party.

Differences between the government and the party organisation had also surfaced after the BJP's dismal performance in the state in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya had then virtually held Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath responsible for the poor showing, saying government officials ignored party workers and leaders.

BJP candidate from Saharanpur, Raghav Lakhanpal Sharma, who lost the 2024 Lok Sabha election, had accused his own party's minister and MLA of working against him.

BJP sources said the party leadership had taken the matter seriously and was working on a strategy to avoid such conflicts.

'ALL IS NOT WELL'

- Minister and the MLA engage in a public spat, their supporters clashed, prompting officials to intervene
- Conflicts add to the woes of the BJP ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls.
- Party leadership takes the matter seriously and is working on a strategy to avoid such conflicts

NEXT MANIPUR CM

The martial arts lover who bats for talks

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

"Even World War II ended with dialogue," Yumnam Khemchand Singh, who is set to become the next chief minister of Manipur, remarked strongly on June 20, 2024, when women protesters from the Meitei community in Imphal West stormed his house demanding his stand and a possible solution to the ongoing conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

Khemchand's suggestion of dialogue to resolve the raging Meitei-Kuki conflict angered the protesters, many of whom opposed any talks with the "foreigner" Kukis. As a Meitei MLA, he argued briefly but managed to pacify the protesters by promising to convey their demands to the CM.

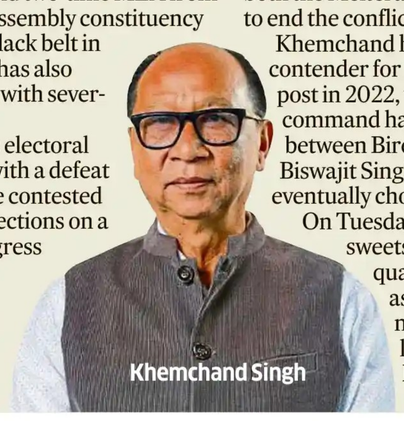
As the conflict persisted, Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025.

On December 8, Khemchand surprised many by visiting two relief camps for displaced Kukis in the Naga-dominated districts of Ukhrul and Kamjong. He interacted with the inmates and once again emphasised the need for dialogue to end the conflict.

According to BJP functionaries in Manipur, Khemchand's consistent efforts to promote dialogue and reach out to both the Kuki and Naga communities led the party high command to choose him over Biren Singh as the next chief minister on Tuesday. They said that his long-standing involvement in sports activities had helped him build connections across communities, making him widely accepted. His long association with RSS activities may also have contributed to his elevation as CM, they added.

The 62-year-old two-time MLA from the Singjemai Assembly constituency is a fourth dan black belt in taekwondo and has also been associated with several other sports.

Khemchand's electoral journey began with a defeat in 2012, when he contested the Assembly elections on a Trinamool Congress ticket. He later joined the BJP and was elected in 2017 and 2022. Between 2017 and 2022, he served as Speaker, and until the imposition of President's Rule, he held portfolios including rural development, education and municipal administration.



Khemchand Singh

In fact, Khemchand was among the few leaders called to New Delhi in 2023, when the conflict first erupted, and asked to suggest steps for restoring peace. A BJP leader in Imphal said he was "definitely a face accepted by the communities and relied upon by the central leadership", but added that much would depend on how he convinces civil society leaders from both the Meitei and Kuki communities to end the conflict.

Khemchand had also been a strong contender for the chief minister's post in 2022, when the BJP high command had to mediate a tussle between Biren Singh and Th Biswajit Singh. Biren, however, was eventually chosen as CM.

On Tuesday, Biren offered sweets at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi as Khemchand was named leader of the legislature party in Manipur.

Raj: 2 British nationals told to leave India over political stickers

JAIPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has issued "leave India" notices to two British nationals for allegedly pasting political stickers in public places in Pushkar, officials said on Monday.

The action came after reports received on January 21 about stickers related to the Israel-Palestine conflict appearing at multiple locations across the town.

A CID team conducted an inquiry and traced the activity to the two foreign tourists.

The police said the two were in India on tourist visas. The CID found that their actions violated visa conditions that prohibit engaging in political activity.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Rewrite rules, without discarding equity

By keeping the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations 2026 in abeyance, the Supreme Court may have delivered a legally sound response. The Court expressed apprehensions about the way the regulations have been framed, and described them as exclusionary. HEIs in the country continue to report incidents of caste-based discrimination faced by students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. Concerns have peaked since the suicide of Rohith Vemula in 2016. While the UGC's regulations were a natural response intended to eradicate discrimination on campuses, the apex court held that they could "divide society". It also noted that the regulations lacked safeguards against their potential misuse, as has been the case with many similar laws.

The UGC issued the fresh guidelines earlier this month, as an update to its own 2012 rules. Through the fresh regulations, the Commission envisions protection for SC, ST, and Backward Classes students, provisions for equal opportunity centres, monitoring of complaints, and a resolution mechanism. However, some of the upper caste groups argue that the definition of discrimination, by excluding the general category, identifies only some sections as potential victims, creating a presumption of guilt for the other students. It has also been noted that there is no provision for initiating action against false complaints, which makes students in the general category more vulnerable to such cases. Protests staged against the regulations in some of the campuses in northern India echoed narratives from events that preceded the violent stir sparked by the Central government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission recommendations in 1990. The sentiment is much the same, revealing how polarisation on caste lines still runs deep in society.

Post-review UGC regulations must deter caste discrimination through fair rules and checks on misuse

The argument that the regulations do not factor in considerations of all categories has legal merit. But that cannot discredit the reality that SC, ST, and BC students are the ones who are almost always subjected to discrimination. In socially hierarchical societies, access to equality is not equal. There is a case for the regulations to frame a more inclusive definition of discrimination. A stronger mechanism to identify and deter false complaints is crucial because it can also ensure that students who are genuinely impacted are not dissuaded from voicing their grievances. With the Court proposing a review of the regulations, the focus must now be on evolving a mechanism which is fair and acceptable to all. Equity and equality have a complex relationship, which needs to be negotiated carefully.

When vigilant public powers State action

The Karnataka government deserves commendation for acting swiftly when citizens raised a legitimate concern about *gutka* advertisements wrapped around state-run buses. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's directive to remove all direct and surrogate tobacco advertisements from public buses and bus stations is precisely how a responsive government should function. It acknowledges public sentiment, respects the law and, importantly, places public health above commercial considerations. What makes this episode significant is that the trigger did not come from a court order or an opposition outcry, but from ordinary citizens, who refused to look away. The movement began modestly in North Karnataka, where young people removed the gutka advertisements on public buses. It soon spread to other parts of the state, including Bengaluru. The message was clear: government-owned spaces cannot be used to normalise social evils. This was not an isolated incident. Some time ago, a viral video showed a young commuter stopping a man from consuming gutka inside a Metro train. Such acts of public vigilance underline a deeper truth: when enforcement fails, citizens step in to defend shared civic spaces.

Gutka, an addictive smokeless tobacco product, is a mixture of crushed areca nut, tobacco, slaked lime, and flavouring agents. Though banned under food safety laws in Karnataka, manufacturers routinely bypass the prohibition by disguising the product as mouth fresheners. The health consequences are devastating. India has one of the world's highest rates of oral cancer, overwhelmingly linked to smokeless tobacco. The civic damage is equally visible: red-stained walls, buses, and stations bear silent testimony to poor enforcement. This failure is equally evident in the weak implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). While fines for public smoking have been increased to Rs 1,000, enforcement remains lax. Bars and pubs routinely permit smoking despite the law clearly stating that it is prohibited wherever food and beverages are served. This casual disregard erodes the credibility of regulation. One wonders if the government is abdicating its responsibility, waiting for public vigilantism to plug these gaps as well.

Karnataka government's decision to remove gutka ads from public buses is a nod to alert citizenry

Advertising on buses is a revenue stream for transport corporations, but the social cost far outweighs the earnings. A few lakh rupees earned from a bus wrap cannot justify the long-term public health burden. The government has responded decisively when public interest demanded it. This episode is also a reminder of the power of the common citizen. When people act collectively, governments listen. That, ultimately, is democracy functioning as it should.

A NEW PLAYBOOK

Navigating growth in a fragmented world

As the global economy turns increasingly volatile, India must augment State capability towards strategic, manufacturing-led growth

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

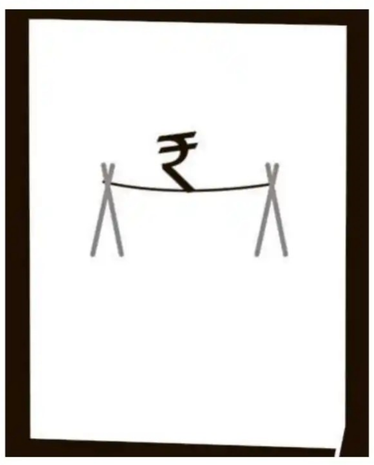
The release of the Economic Survey 2025-26 and the Union Budget 2026-27 offers the opportunity to read diagnosis and prescription together. The challenge in the year ahead is no longer merely to sustain growth, but to align growth with resilience, competitiveness, and strategic autonomy in a world marked by geopolitical rivalry, trade weaponisation, and financial uncertainty.

India enters 2026 with strong macroeconomic fundamentals. Growth remains near 7%, inflation is anchored, public investment at scale, banks and corporate balance sheets are healthy, and fiscal consolidation is credible. Together, they represent tangible gains from infrastructure expansion, logistics improvements, digital public infrastructure, and supply-side reforms that are finally yielding economy-wide efficiency gains. Yet, the Survey makes an uncomfortable but essential point: macroeconomic virtue is no guarantee of rewards. The rupee has remained under pressure, capital flows have been volatile, and trade conditions have worsened. This is a feature of a global system in which trade, finance, and technology are increasingly subordinated to strategic considerations. Tariffs, export controls, and sanctions are now instruments of hostile statecraft. For India, this means that the old development playbook – grow fast, liberalise gradually, integrate smoothly – no longer works. The challenge, therefore, is to grow strategically.

The Budget reinforces India's hard-won fiscal credibility. The fiscal deficit is budgeted at 4.3% of GDP for 2026-27, with a clear medium-term anchor of reducing public debt to around 50% of GDP by 2030. Capital expenditure continues to rise in absolute terms even as revenue expenditure is restrained. This capex emphasis – across roads, railways, ports, logistics, energy, and urban infrastructure – is the defining feature of India's fiscal strategy. However, the Survey's warning on state finances deserves closer attention. Rising revenue deficits, unconditional cash transfers, and populist commitments at the sub-national level risk undermining the general government balance sheet.

As India's government bonds become more globally held and indexed, sovereign risk will be assessed on the basis of consolidated public finances, not just the Centre's accounts. Fiscal discipline is no longer merely a technocratic virtue; it is now a strategic signal. The Budget's continued support to states for capital investment, alongside incentives for urban infrastructure, municipal bonds, and asset recycling, points in the right direction. But consolidation will remain fragile unless states internalise the medium-term growth costs of substituting investment with consumption.

Perhaps the Economic Survey's most sobering insight concerns India's external constraint – the structural current account deficit and the underlying goods trade gap. In a world of volatile capital flows and episodic financial stress, this dependence is risky. History is unambiguous: strong and stable currencies belong to economies with deep manufacturing export bases. Services-led growth, while valuable, does not generate the same ecosystem effects – on logistics, skills, supplier networks, and State capacity – that manufacturing does. Nor does it anchor currencies during global stress. The Union Budget's strong push towards manufacturing – spanning microelectronics, semiconductors, chemicals, defence, aerospace, construction equipment, and rare earth magnets – must be read against this backdrop.



The emphasis on customs rationalisation, duty deferrals for trusted manufacturers, export facilitation, and bonded manufacturing zones signals a conscious shift away from tariff-led protection towards cost, scale, and reliability. Yet, a strategic caution is warranted. Industrial policy must not degenerate into a patchwork of sectoral favours. High tariffs on upstream inputs may shelter a few producers but end up taxing a much larger base of downstream exporters. The real test will be whether the country can lower the cost of capital, energy, and logistics while disciplining industrial support through export performance and competition.

The Survey is clear-eyed: manufacturing matters not only for jobs, but for macroeconomic and strategic stability. In a world where supply chains are weaponised and security of supply is uncertain, domestic manufacturing capability enhances bargaining power and resilience. The Budget reinforces this logic through targeted incentives, infrastructure guarantees, freight corridors, port connectivity, and energy security measures, including support for nuclear power, critical minerals processing, battery storage, and carbon capture. However, manufacturing success will ultimately depend less on schemes and more on execution: regulatory predictability, contract enforcement, skilled labour, and reliable utilities.

Can capacity meet ambition?

One of the Survey's most consequential arguments is the call to reimagine the Indian State as an entrepreneurial one: capable of acting under uncertainty, learning by doing, and correcting course without paralysis. This is not a call for State capitalism or bureaucratic control, but for strategic governance. There are encouraging signs – mission-mode initiatives in semiconductors and green hydrogen, digital public infrastructure, deregulation compacts with states, and trust-based compliance in customs and taxation, many of which the Budget extends and operationalises. The move towards risk-based regulation, automated processes, and the decriminalisation of minor economic offences reflects a maturing regulatory philosophy. Yet State capacity remains the binding constraint. Civil service capability, regulatory coherence, and Centre-state coordination will determine whether India converts ambition into advantage.

Both the Survey and the Budget place renewed emphasis on human capital – education, skilling, healthcare, and care services. The Budget's focus on caregivers, allied health professionals, education-to-employment pathways, and services-sector expansion reflects a pragmatic recognition: India's growth must be employment-intensive to remain socially and politically sustainable. The demographic dividend is not automatic. Without quality jobs, rising aspirations can quickly turn into disaffection. Manufacturing, construction, logistics, tourism, healthcare, and the care economy offer high employment multipliers, but only if skills, mobility, and urban governance keep pace. Here lies the deeper political economy challenge.

In an era of global uncertainty, the temptation for quick redistributive fixes will grow. The harder, more durable path is to prioritise productivity, employability, and delayed gratification – what the Survey evocatively frames as choosing *shreya* over *preya* – requiring resolve to master institutions, strategy, and statecraft.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

As bravado cracked, love stepped in

A frozen lake in Stalino led to a lifelong partnership

NAVARATNA LAXMAN

Way back in 1957, I was at the metallurgical town of Stalino in the erstwhile Soviet Union as a trainee of the Bhilai Steel Plant, along with 14 fellow engineers. It was a time when friendship between India and the Soviet Union was at its zenith. During our training, we had the privilege of having Swetha as our interpreter throughout the course. The tragic loss of her parents in a freak accident just three months ago in Leningrad had in no way marred the buoyant zest for life and achievement of this charming young woman.

After working hours, she would teach us popular Russian dances so that we could enjoy the musical evenings specially organised for us with generous frequency at the beautiful park near our hostel.

No wonder my roommate, Deb Mukherji, fell head over heels in love with her. An easy-mixing, sportive chap, Deb never missed an opportunity to impress her—something the smart young lady was well aware of.

When the Russian winter arrived, white snowflakes danced down in profusion with celestial splendour, covering the entire landscape with a glittering, milky blanket. Wrapped in our woollens, we never missed visiting the park and soaking in its dreamy ambience.

One memorable evening, Swetha had organised a winter dance session in the park, where a magnificent boating lake lay frozen, transformed into a gigantic slab of ice. Explaining the hazards of accidentally stepping onto the frozen lake, she urged us to keep away from its edge while dancing.

That was when our hero Deb found an opportunity to display his bravado. He boasted that he was not scared of walking on the frozen lake and challenged Swetha to a bet: the loser would grant whatever the winner asked for. The ever-sportive Swetha readily accepted.

As we watched eagerly, Deb started walking, confidently balancing himself over the swaying mass of ice. Even before he had covered 20 metres, we were shaken by a muffled cracking sound. The next instant, to our horror, a huge chasm spanning the length of the lake appeared. More cracks spread rapidly, forming a gigantic spider web. Trapped amid the fissures, Deb began shouting for help.

As we stood helplessly, Swetha sprang into action. Unmindful of the grave risk, she hopped over the maze of fissures like a rabbit and reached him. Deb clung to her desperately, like a drowning man, as she deftly manoeuvred him out to safety.

As the panic gradually gave way to relief and cheer, we urged Swetha—the winner—to spell out her demand. With a mischievous twinkle, she asked the still-shaken hero to loudly announce what he has been trying to express to her all the while. Grabbing the Godsend, our Romeo knelt before her and proposed, much to our collective delight, for we were already aware of their mutual feelings.

The winner's choice left both as 'winners'. They were married soon thereafter and settled down happily in Bhilai.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Menstrual dignity is a question of equality, not welfare

Apropos 'Judicial realism for menstrual rights' (Feb 3), menstrual dignity is a fundamental question of equality, not a matter of sympathy or welfare. When public institutions fail to address menstrual needs seriously, they send a clear message to girls that their bodies are an inconvenience rather than a reality deserving respect. This neglect affects not only health but also education, confidence, and participation in public life. Treating menstrual hygiene as an optional facility instead of essential infrastructure reflects societal discomfort with women's bodies. Silence, stigma, and ignorance create invisible barriers that push girls out of classrooms and opportunities. Equality cannot exist when basic needs are ignored due to administrative limitations or gradual progress.

Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

A lesson from Kerala

The Kerala State Government deserves applause for announcing free education up to degree level (in Arts and Science) in its budget. Safety insurance for students up to Class12 and free bus passes are also announced among other benefits. Other states should follow, as education needs top priority.

Laxman Gorlakatte, Mysuru

Tech alone won't do

Apropos 'B'luru ahead in tech, strict laws can make it cleaner: Düsseldorf mayor' (Feb 3), the Düsseldorf mayor's remarks underline a simple truth: technology alone cannot ensure clean cities; weak enforcement of basic civic laws on waste management, traffic, and public transport holds it back.

Deboshmita Trivedy, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Read history. On George Soros' bidding, Rahul Gandhi wants to divide India into pieces like Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Nishikant Dubey, BJP MP

Conspiracy theories: because truth is just too boring.

Jerry Seinfeld

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

What Epstein Files really reveal

Beyond individual failures, the scandal exposes an erosion of institutions, signalling warnings for the world

BRIGADIER ANIL RAMAN (RETD)

The circulation of documents related to Jeffrey Epstein has brought renewed attention to an episode in recent American public life. Public discussion has often focused on personalities and conjecture, but the more significant lesson lies in what this episode reveals about institutional restraint, elite accountability, and the risks that arise when governance norms weaken in a mature democracy.

The significance of the Epstein case is not about establishing guilt by association; that responsibility rests with courts and prosecutors. Its importance lies in the insight it provides into elite networks that operate with limited oversight and exercise disproportionate influence. For years, Epstein moved freely among finance, politics, philanthropy, and media. This reflected a broader systemic pattern in which access and reputation tended to substitute for scrutiny.

From a governance and national security perspective, personal compromise extends beyond the private domain. Security literature recognises sexual misconduct, financial opacity, and reputational risk as sources of institutional vulnerability. Coercion need not be explicit to have effect; the possibility of exposure alone can encourage restraint or silence. When such vulnerabilities affect those involved in public policymaking, the implications become systemic.

The released material contains references to numerous public figures across politics, finance, media, and philanthropy, ranging from incidental mentions to documented contact. While these references do not establish wrongdoing, they indicate the breadth of networks surrounding Epstein and the limited oversight characterising influential social circles.

A notable contrast can be observed in how different American administrations addressed the issue. Under Joe Biden, the executive accepted the Department of Justice's position to keep critical documents sealed until the conclusion of Ghislaine Maxwell's criminal proceedings. This approach carried political implications, as early disclosure could have adversely affected Donald Trump due to his past association with Epstein. Nevertheless, the administration prioritised judicial process and evidentiary integrity over immediate political considerations.

Later developments departed from this approach. A bipartisan effort led by Ro Khanna and Tim Massie sought to advance congressional oversight and compel disclosure, guided by institutional considerations rather than partisanship. These initiatives encountered resistance within the executive branch, where senior officials, including Pam Bondi, delayed release. The material eventually entered the public domain through leaks rather than formal constitutional procedures. While this route of disclosure addressed public interest, it also reflected institutional strain, with legislative oversight proving less effective and executive discretion remaining largely unrestrained.

It is also important to consider figures whose significance arises from structural power rather than specific allegations. Howard Lutnick's influence derives from his position at the intersection of state authority, financial capital, and regulatory power. The Epstein material illustrates how opaque elite networks rely on insulation and informal access. From a strategic perspective, this points to institutional vulnerability rather than individual failure.

Another relevant dimension is the concentration of informational power in private hands. Individuals such as Elon Musk, who control major social media platforms, shape how information circulates in democratic societies. Decisions relating to amplification or suppression of narratives can carry political consequences, even in the absence of malicious intent.

India can learn

For India, the relevance of these developments lies in institutional learning rather than moral comparison. As India's elite class expands and integrates more closely with global networks, similar pressures are likely to arise. Wealth concentration, close interaction between business and politics, and the growing influence of private information platforms are not unique to the United States. Reliance on personal integrity alone is insufficient to safeguard public interest. Strong disclosure norms, enforceable conflict-of-interest rules, and a culture of restraint remain essential for institutional credibility.

The enduring lesson of the Epstein files concerns governance rather than scandal. Democracies depend not only on elections but also on institutions capable of constraining power, particularly when restraint is challenging. The distinction between adherence to process and reliance on discretion illustrates the consequences of weakened constraints. When expedience replaces restraint, vulnerability becomes embedded within the system.

The Epstein affair did not create these conditions in the US, but it exposed them. For observers and policymakers elsewhere, including in India, its value lies in demonstrating how institutional erosion can proceed gradually, and how difficult it becomes to restore accountability once transparency becomes contingent rather than rule-bound. Over time, such erosion produces enduring consequences, underscoring the importance of sustained vigilance and institutional reform in preserving democratic integrity.

(The writer is a research fellow at the Takshashila Institution)

Striking the balance between growth and green priorities

GAYATHRI D NAIK

Recent developments in the policy spaces and judicial decisions on environment-related matters raise concerns about our approach to environmental protection and development. In Karnataka, the government recently recalled its decision to acquire agricultural land for the proposed Aerocity project. At the same time, it has chosen to press ahead with the ambitious North-South Underground Vehicular Tunnel Project in Bengaluru, despite sustained protests over its impact on ecosystems and biodiversity, particularly in Lalbagh.

On the judicial front, while the Supreme Court revisited its earlier judgment on *ex post facto* environmental clearances, another Bench of the same court extended environmental responsibility to corporate social responsibility.

Together these developments invite reflection on a critical question: where does the environment truly fit within policy frameworks and judicial decisions? Is there a coherent attempt to strike a balance between environmental concerns and developmental needs, and if so, where is that balance being defined?

These questions assume significance in the two contexts. The first is legal—the constitutional right to a clean environment under Article 21, now expanded to include protection from adverse climate change. The second is environmental justice—the unequal and increasing impact of climate change across social and economic groups.

The right to a clean environment—covering air, water, sanitation, and freedom from adverse climate impacts—has been recognised as intrinsic to the right to life under Article 21. This recognition is largely the result of an activist judiciary that has read socio-economic rights, originally enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy, into the domain of fundamental rights.

Judicial interventions have strengthened environmental protection through directions to establish institutions, statutory bodies, and monitoring mechanisms, including continuing mandamus and court-appointed committees, particularly in forest governance. The adoption of international environmental law principles into domestic jurisprudence has further reinforced this framework.

However, recent judgments from this otherwise proactive judiciary raise concerns about India's approach to environmental protection. In *CREDAI vs Vanashakti*, the Supreme Court recalled its earlier ruling against *ex post facto* environmental clearances and restored the executive directions permitting their regularisation. This decision represents a setback for environmental jurisprudence.

The contrast with other recent rulings is stark. In *Ranjitsinh vs Union of India*, the Court reaffirmed the right against adverse climate change as a fundamental right, building on earlier decisions under the then CJI D Y Chandrachud. In Dec 2025, the SC extended environmental responsibility to the corporate sector by linking it to CSR.

Extending environmental responsibility to the corporate sector is an important step, as it expands the constitutional duty to protect the environment from citizens to legal entities. However, this approach risks being rendered ineffective if environmental violations are legitimised through *ex post facto* clearances. Such regularisation disproportionately benefits large corporate projects and undermines forest rights, land rights and the environmental rights of affected communities. Corporate environmental responsibility cannot be meaningful when compliance is optional and violations are regularised after the fact.

The question of where the environment fits within development policy becomes more urgent in light of accelerating climate change. Climate change is no longer a future threat; it is a reality. Its impacts are visible across regions in diverse ways, as recognised by the Supreme Court in *Ranjitsinh*.

Beyond spatial diversity, climate change carries a strong environmental justice dimension. Poorer and marginalised communities—the landless, the homeless, women and transgender persons—bear a disproportionate share of climate impacts despite contributing least to environmental degradation. These unequal burdens deepen existing social and economic divides. This reality raises a critical concern: when the right to a clean environment is constitutionally guaranteed, who truly benefits from it? Without conscious policy-making, the right may become a privilege solely of those with economic and social capital. Addressing this inequity requires a reorientation of environmental governance towards inclusion and fairness.

Development is inevitable in a growing nation, and the environment has long been used as a resource supporting that growth. But use must not lead to exploitation. A balance between development and environmental protection is necessary.

Urban congestion and pollution demand urgent solutions, yet infrastructure projects such as tunnel roads in green and ecologically sensitive spaces cannot provide solutions. Addressing root causes of urban congestion—through improved public transport and a transition to cleaner energy—offers more sustainable alternatives.

Developmental policies must therefore adopt a framework of just sustainability, one that integrates environmental protection with social and economic justice. Environmental measures will remain ineffective if underlying inequalities are ignored, especially since vulnerable communities are the least equipped to adapt to environmental changes or finance the transition to cleaner energy technologies without State support.

(The writer is assistant professor and co-director, Centre for Environmental Law Education, Research and Advocacy, NLSIU, Bengaluru)

From markets to spending to debt, usually reliable indicators that forecast where the economy is headed are proving deeply fallible

The global economy's warning signals are broken

PATRICIA COHEN

The general bewilderment that bedevils the economic mandarins these days was captured by a recent World Bank note: "Global Growth Defies Expectations." Forecasts that turn out to be wrong — or defy expectations — are as routine as a heartbeat.

But now something is up. Familiar guideposts to how businesses, consumers, investors and workers have historically responded to economic slings and arrows have turned out to be less reliable.

This has made interpreting the cascade of data trickier than ever. It is as if cars, instead of slowing down at a flashing yellow light as expected, started speeding up.

Consider people's spending habits. Normally when consumers are gloomy about the economy, they tend to spend less, wary of what lies ahead.

And in the United States, consumers' outlook has been depressed. In every category, from rising prices to the job market, a survey showed that consumer sentiment has dropped to a 12-year low. Yet Americans have not stopped shopping. Consumer spending has risen steadily.

The stock market, too, has generally been on a tear despite pell-mell disturbances, including a worldwide trade war, whiplash-inducing policy changes, threats to central bank independence, military conflicts and rising geopolitical tensions, titanic debt, and a possible financial bubble related to artificial intelligence.

"It's just been remarkable that we haven't seen more big swings going on," Kenneth Rogoff, author of *Our Dollar, Your Problem*, said of the market's calm.

Many businesses have also shrugged off uncertainty.

"Textbooks would say uncertainty is bad for economic growth, but there's not much evidence that it's had a significant impact on the US economy so far," said Neil Shearing, group chief economist at Capital Economics. "Business investment is the first place you would expect it to show up, but that's been strong."

In some ways, scrambled expectations should not be that surprising. Even in quotidian times, economists tend to exaggerate the scientific precision of their field, acting as if economies are ruled by inexorable forces instead of the uncoordinated activities of mercurial humans with varied goals and drives.

The Covid-19 pandemic delivered a major shock to the global economic system. And now the unpredictable volatility has been further supercharged with the transformation of the world's economy and geopolitical order that President Donald Trump has pushed forward.

The cooperative system of trade based on rules is giving way to great power aggression and mercantilism. With so much change happening so fast, historical patterns are cracking.

Usually reliable indicators that signal a recession is starting have also gone kerflooey. A sudden and marked rise in unemployment, for instance, has historically been remarkably successful in predicting recessions.

Yet this linkage has broken. A measure called the Sahm Rule, after Claudia Sahm, a former Federal Reserve economist, predicted a recession in 2024 that never materialised.

Another recession signal — the difference between returns on long-term and short-term bonds, known as the yield curve — has been a washout. Normally, long-term government bonds offer higher rates than short-term bonds because investors don't want to tie up their money for a long time when the economy is good.

So when the normal yield curve turns upside down, or becomes inverted, and rates on short-term bonds are higher than on long-term ones, it has traditionally been a sign that the economy is about to stumble into recession.

But this indicator, too, was off base, most notably in 2022 and 2023.

The traditional connection between the US economy's performance and the value of the dollar has also been snapped. Uncertainty tends to increase the dollar's value compared with other currencies as investors seek a safe haven in risky times. But the dollar has sunk to its lowest level in years.

These are weird times. Still, putting aside instances of "irrational exuberance" like the possible overinvestment surrounding AI, there are reasonable explanations for most false signals.

Analysts backed down on their predictions that Trump's tariff blitz last spring would cause higher prices, rising unemployment and a possible recession. Tariff levels continued to flip-flop unpredictably, and many businesses stockpiled goods in advance while others temporarily absorbed higher costs.

As for vigorous consumer spending, it is actually dominated by a thin sliver of high-income households. Moody's Analytics estimated that the top 10% of households accounted for nearly half of all consumer spending.

People who are worried about their financial prospects are shopping but at discount stores.

And what they are spending money on has shifted. Recent credit card data from Bank of America showed that people were shopping more at grocery stores at lunchtime and less at restaurants and eateries, suggesting that rising prices are a concern.

The unusually weak dollar can be explained by Trump's heavy tariffs combined with fears that he may interfere with the Federal Reserve's independence and fuel inflation.

Barry Eichengreen, a professor of economics and political science at the University of California, Berkeley, said economists had always tended to rely too much on conventions.

"The economy is an incredibly complicated beast, and we're in a period of structural change," Eichengreen said, "so it's not surprising that simple rules of thumb increasingly fail."

The New York Times

NYT

Record debt in the world's richest nations threatens global growth

For decades crushing debt has spread misery in the world's poor and lower-income nations. But the menace of unsupportable borrowing that now hangs over the global economy emanates from some of the richest countries. Record or near-record debt in the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Japan threatens to hamstring growth and sow financial instability around the globe.

At home, it means countries must make interest payments with money that otherwise could have paid for health care, roads, public housing, technological advances or education.

The hunger for more and more loans has also pushed up borrowing costs, gobbling up a bigger share of taxpayer money. It can also push up rates on business, consumer and car loans, as well as mortgages and credit cards; and drive up inflation.

And perhaps most worrisome, overhanging debt — pumped up even when an economy is relatively sound and jobless rates are low, like the United States — gives governments less room to respond when things sour.

"You want to be able to spend big and spend fast when you need to," said Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard University economics professor.

What happens if there's a financial crisis, a pandemic or a war? What if there's a sudden need for more social services spending and jobless relief because of changes caused by artificial intelligence or climate-related disasters? Borrowing a lot of money quickly becomes more difficult — and expensive — when the national debt is already sky-high. At the World Economic Forum in Davos last week, President Donald Trump commanded centre stage, but on the sidelines, finance ministers fretted over their ability to fund a growing list of must-haves, from beefed-up militaries to upgraded electricity grids.

Government borrowing when an economy is strong, and when interest rates are low, can support growth, and in times of distress can help bolster spending. The cycle of supercharged borrowing began with the 2008 financial crisis and recession, when governments rushed to provide assistance to struggling households and tax revenues fell. Relief programs during the Covid-19 pandemic, as economies shut down and healthcare costs rocketed, kicked debt levels up another notch as interest rates were rising and outpacing growth. But debt levels did not decline. And now, in six of the wealthy Group of 7 nations, the national debt equals or exceeds the country's annual economic output, according to the IMF. NYT

The narrative war in West Bengal

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

With the West Bengal Assembly elections barely a couple of months away, the contest has sharpened into a familiar yet deeply layered battle between Mamata Banerjee's TMC and an aggressive BJP determined to breach what has long remained one of its most difficult political frontiers. At stake is not merely the continuation of a government but the ideological direction of a state where identity, history, and political memory carry unusual weight.

Mamata Banerjee enters the election as a seasoned campaigner who has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to defy predictions of her political decline. Over the past decade and a half, she has embedded her party deeply into the social and administrative fabric of Bengal. Welfare schemes targeted at women, rural households, students and the urban poor have created an ecosystem of dependence and loyalty that is not easily dismantled. For large sections of the electorate, especially in rural Bengal, elections are increasingly judged less on abstract governance metrics and more on the continuity of tangible benefits. This structural advantage gives the TMC a head start that no opposition force can afford to underestimate.

Yet this election is not taking place in a vacuum. The BJP has dramatically raised the pitch by foregrounding the issue of illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, seeking to turn border security into a central electoral concern. Citing official figures of thousands of infiltrators being pushed back by the Border Security Force in recent months, the BJP argues that demographic imbalance and administrative complacency have become defining features of Trinamool rule. The party's leadership believes this narrative has the potential to resonate beyond border districts and strike a chord with voters anxious about jobs, land, and cultural identity.

Whether this argument will travel far beyond politically receptive constituencies remains uncertain. Bengal's electorate has historically shown a strong resistance to narratives that appear externally imposed or overly nationalistic in tone. For many voters, infiltration remains a distant abstraction rather than an everyday lived concern. Moreover, there is a widespread perception that border management is primarily a central responsibility, making the BJP's attempt to attribute the problem solely to the state government less persuasive to undecided voters. The party's challenge, therefore, lies in translating a security discourse into a credible governance alternative at the local level.

The situation in Bangladesh, marked by political volatility and reports of insecurity among Hindu minorities, adds another layer of complexity. While this development has undeniably generated anxiety in certain pockets of Bengal, particularly among refugee-origin communities, its broader electoral impact is ambiguous. Sympathy and concern do not automatically convert into votes, especially when economic stability, welfare delivery, and local leadership remain dominant electoral considerations. The TMC has been quick to counter the BJP's narrative by portraying itself as a protector of social harmony and accusing its rival of stoking fear for political gain.

Crucially, Mamata Banerjee continues to position herself as the custodian of Bengali identity. Her emphasis on language, culture, and regional pride is not merely rhetorical but deeply strategic. In past elections, this appeal has successfully consolidated minority voters while retaining a significant share of secular and regionalist Hindu voters who are uncomfortable with overt communal polarisation. The support of Muslim voters for the Trinamool Congress remains largely intact and may even have strengthened amid recent debates on citizenship, voter verification and infiltration. This consolidation limits the BJP's ability to expand its support base and makes the road to power in West Bengal much steeper.

For the BJP, the task is further complicated by organisational limitations and leadership perception within the state. While the party has expanded its footprint since 2019 and commands a sizeable vote share, it still struggles to project a chief ministerial face who can match Mamata Banerjee's street-level connect and emotional appeal. Central leaders may draw large crowds, but Bengal elections have consistently shown that local credibility matters more than national stature.

That said, anti-incumbency is not entirely absent. Allegations of corruption, local strong-arm tactics, and fatigue with prolonged rule have created pockets of resentment, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. The BJP is likely to capitalise on these sentiments and could improve its seat tally, especially if it succeeds in consolidating Hindu votes in select regions. However, converting incremental gains into a decisive statewide victory remains a formidable challenge.

At this juncture, the balance of probabilities still favours Mamata Banerjee retaining power, though perhaps with a reduced margin.

(The writer is a Delhi-based journalist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Bill to extend Lok Sabha term

New Delhi, February 3
The Lok Sabha today gave leave by 144 votes to 25 to Union Law Minister H. R. Gokhale to introduce legislation to extend its duration by one year.
In his statement of objects and reasons, Mr. Gokhale pointed out that the duration of the present House of the People would in normal course expire on March 18 this year. "Having regard to the proclamation of emergency now in operation, it is considered necessary to extend the duration of the present House of the People by one year," he said.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Cops bust Dandupalya gang

Bangalore, Feb 3 (DHNS)
The kingpin and a woman member of the notorious Dandupalya gang which had terrorised Bangalore and other parts of the State by committing murder of 23 elderly persons and lone-women in the last four years have been arrested by the Bangalore City police.
The kingpin, Dodda Hanuma (36), his wife Laxmi (30), also a member of the gang, were arrested along with three other members, by the special team of police officials of the West Division in Echanur village in Tiptur taluk of Tumkur district.

OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

Calmness can counter unhealthy competition

I confess, I'm a self-styled fitness fiend, for whom several stretches of daily sprints are almost sacrosanct. During this specific sport of mine, often I see a strange sight. While some co-sprinters/strollers smilingly applaud me by sticking their thumbs skywards, there are those speed-walkers, suddenly getting into spurts of racing mode, struggling to outstrip me. But, sooner or later, they slacken their speed when their stamina saps off. Then, moments after, as I move closer, with mammoth efforts, they, yet again, maliciously embark on their mission to outpace me. (This mean act is particularly common among men, I find).

To be honest, I too had succumbed to this silly 'second to none' attitude and had tried surpassing them with swifter strides. But later, I began understanding the undeniable fact: I was getting unduly unsettled by this unhealthy spirit. Evidently, the supposedly exhilarating activity of 'physical exercise' had eventually turned into an exhausting expedition, extinguishing the very essence of 'it'. I was so overwhelmed by the odious competition; I had become oblivious to the sheer joy offered by the nature around. Yes, after this new awakening I once again began admiring abundant foliage, alluring multi-hued flowers, assorted bird chirps, aurally soothing rustles of tree branches, et al. From being a self-critic, admonishing myself for my senseless attitude, I segued into being a self-competitor—striving to sincerely better myself in sundry ways. Strangely, by that, I suddenly started sensing surplus peace surging within. And, with my peace horizon going higher, I found hundreds of things, hiking up my happiness quotient!

Truly, once we are cocooned in a cosy and content zone, we become blissfully oblivious to toxic contenders. Even if we do take note, we just commiserate with them. Since, you surely know, those who are desperate to surge ahead of you—sometimes, even adopting unscrupulous strategies—are the same ones who are straggling behind you. Just as the persons who want to pull you down are those who are below you.

Finally, while flipping through a famed book, I had found these fabulous lines – "The finest way to fluster your foes is by forgiving them!" As nothing agitates them as much as your attitude of absolutely "not getting agitated" about anything they do/say.

Andhra Pradesh to set up inquiry commission in Tirumala ghee case

Cabinet seeks wider probe to expose masterminds

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

LADDU SCANDAL

- Naidu chairs 3-hour meeting on laddu ghee adulteration scandal
- Cabinet criticises SIT report for targeting only direct accused, not higher-level culprits
- Mandates strict legal and administrative action
- Govt vows to safeguard TTD sanctity

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday decided to constitute an inquiry commission to identify the real masterminds behind the Tirumala laddu ghee adulteration scandal and ensure strict action.

Chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Amaravati Secretariat, the meeting sidelined all other agenda items to focus exclusively on the issue.

Discussions centred on the CBI-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) report — formed under Supreme Court orders — which detailed the adulteration process and departmental lapses. The report submitted to the government recommended action only against the direct accused, falling short of exposing higher-level culprits, the Cabinet felt.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, state Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said the SIT provided two documents, a chargesheet filed in court available to the government after cognisance and an 11-page confidential report. The Cabinet extensively reviewed key revelations, including ghee supply irregularities, relaxed tender norms, quality control failures and forged documents, he said.

"Post-2019 policy changes enabled substandard supplies through deliberate relaxations, such as reducing the turnover threshold from Rs 250 crore to Rs 150 crore and waiving the requirement of minimum milk procurement experience. Lab tests on ghee samples flagged possible adulterants including soybean, sunflower, rapeseed, cottonseed, fish oil, beef tallow and lard — details that Chief Minister Naidu highlighted in a 2024 meeting," Keshav added.

Sources in the government pointed out that Naidu presented the CBI report, sparking a nearly three-hour discussion. Ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, weighed in on next steps. The Cabinet unanimously mandated legal/administrative action against those named, plus reforms to prevent recurrence. It resolved to form a short-term inquiry team via the Commission of Enquiry for a time-bound report.

Woman, friend assaulted in Kochi in act of moral policing

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A 22-year-old woman and her male friend were allegedly assaulted by a group of locals in Kochi in an act of moral policing.

The incident, which occurred on January 29, came to light after the woman demanded stringent action against the accused.

Police have denied allegations that they tried to settle the matter, saying that a case was registered the very next day.

Nine people were booked, with serious charges invoked, including Section 74 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita for assault against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.

However, a counter-case was also filed based on a complaint from the accused, alleging that the woman and her friend had assaulted them.

The woman, a native of Kollam, was working in Kochi and staying at a paying guest accommodation near Chottanikkara.

She and her friend were allegedly abused and assaulted by the accused when he came to drop her off after work around 10.30 pm.

In her complaint, the woman also said that the accused threatened an autorickshaw driver and prevented him from taking them to hospital.

SC okays appointment of five retired judges as ad hoc judges

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday approved the proposal for the appointment of five retired judges as ad hoc judges of the Allahabad High Court for two years in terms of Article 224-A of the Constitution.

Those judges are Justices Mohd Faiz Alam Khan, Mohd Aslam, Syed Aftab Husain Rizvi, Renu Agarwal and Jyotsna Sharma.

The rarely used Article 224A of the Constitution deals with the appointment of ad-hoc judges in high courts and says, "The Chief Justice of a High Court for any State may at any time, with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of that Court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State."

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, held its meeting on Tuesday.

In April 2021, terming the pendency of around 57 lakh cases in high courts as "docket explosion", the top court had activated a "dormant" constitutional provision to pave the way for the appointment of retired high court judges as ad hoc ones for a period of two to three years to clear backlog, and came out with guidelines to regulate appointments.

On January 30, 2025, the court had allowed the high courts to appoint ad hoc judges, not exceeding 10 per cent of the court's total sanctioned strength.

Meghalaya's matriarchal culture stands out: Governor Vijayashankar

SUJAY B M
SHILLONG, DHNS

Governor Vijayashankar

Meghalaya Governor CH Vijayashankar on Tuesday underscored the uniqueness of the northeastern state, where matriarchal traditions prevail to this day.

In an interaction with reporters, Vijayshankar, a two-time MP from Mysuru, highlighted that the three major tribes in the state — Garo, Jaintia and Khasi — still follow the matrilineal culture of men shifting to their wives' houses after marriage.

Additionally, children take surnames from their mothers, and the youngest daughter in the family is the custodian of ancestral property.

However, the governor noted that despite the matrilineal culture, politics in Meghalaya remains dominated by men.

"In the village durbars, the representatives are elected by raising hands. During that process, only men are involved, and even if a woman passes through, it's not considered."

Since Meghalaya falls under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, tribal autonomy is granted through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), which take decisions independently of the state government. When asked about potential clashes between the government and the ADCs, Vijayashankar said, "There's no issue apart from ego clashes. The rule is clear: under the Sixth Schedule, tribes follow their own traditions. Both the state government and the ADCs have distinct jurisdictions. The ADCs come under me."

He also drew a comparison between Kodagu in Karnataka and Meghalaya, highlighting similarities in attire and food culture. The governor downplayed the border disputes between Assam and Meghalaya, noting that similar issues exist between Karnataka and Kerala (Kasaragod) and between Karnataka and Maharashtra (Belagavi).

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I WAS THINKING FOR HALLOWEEN MAYBE I COULD MAKE A BUNCH OF SPOOKY PUMPKIN SPICE SUGAR COOKIES WITH PUMPKIN SPICE ICING!
YUM!
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE OFFERED PUMPKIN SPICE COFFEE WITH PUMPKIN SPICE CREAMER TO GO WITH IT?
I TAKE IT YOU'RE A BIG FAN OF PUMPKIN SPICE?
YEAH, MAYBE A LITTLE!

Hagar The Horrible

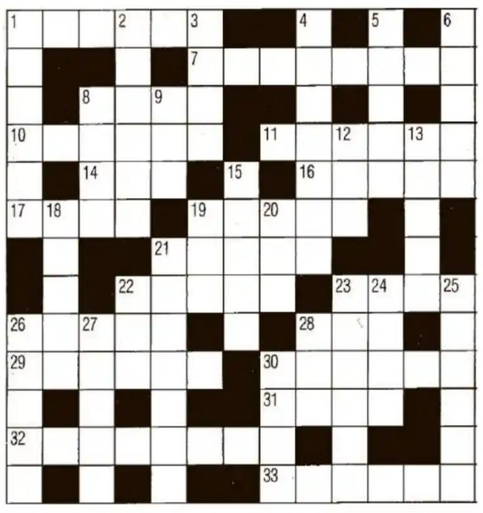
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

SCHOOL JUST STARTED AND ALREADY I SHOULD QUIT!
MY TEACHER YELLS AT ME, THE KIDS LAUGH AT ME AND THE PRINCIPAL HATES ME
WHAT ABOUT THE CUSTODIAN?
HE VACUUMED UP MY LUNCH!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12346



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 At intervals, dad exercises (6)
7 Seize the occasion, but don't do so immediately (4,4)
8 River put to no practical purpose? (4)
10 Bell that didn't mean a lot to a dog (6)
11 Watchful about central Kilburn, he was nearer Victoria (6)
14 A foot back (3)
16 For music, improves the pitch (5)
17 Is commonly given a unique finish (4)
19 Turn up distrustful and self-assertive (5)
21 An arresting thing for a sailor to say (5)
22 A fatherly bloomer? (5)
23 Titled little boy? (4)
26 In a struggle to treat a wart (2,3)
28 A vessel? Yes, on the starboard side (3)
29 Counties with a common end (6)
30 Weight of a cocky little boxer? (6)
31 A distance from home (4)
32 Piling up in capital style (8)
33 In one main sense, he knows the ropes (3,3)

DOWN
1 Villa in Mexico once (6)
2 Conventional in a materialistic way? (6)
3 Cook, using some steam and little water (4)
4 Not necessarily wealthy or wise (7)
5 Provided drink all round when the day was victorious (5)
6 Small men in urgent straits (5)
8 By word of mouth or a letter (4)
9 Fixed the telly? (3)
12 Purchase, by the sound of it (3)
13 Allude in freer usage (5)
15 Soft or mushy, like certain fiction? (5)
18 Where to go up (5)
19 Go very quietly out East (3)
20 Outskirts of Salisbury, for instance (3)
21 Confirmed the dreary fellow was ejected (4,3)
22 Knock up to standard (3)
23 You couldn't give one straight to a monkey (6)
24 Tray fashioned in aesthetic style (4)
25 Subduing, thanks to an old Chinese (6)
26 In this state, you shouldn't go short of tea (5)
27 To gain a companion, a cranky thing to do? (5)
28 Is there much talk of exercising it? (3)
30 Plenty to carry (4)

ACROSS
1 Sacred beetle (6)
7 Enjoyment of food (8)
8 Witches (4)
10 Rubs out (6)
11 Hate (6)
14 Charged particle (3)
16 Romantic flowers (5)
17 Farm building (4)
19 Playful skip or leap (5)
21 Woo (5)
22 Untidy (5)
23 Walking stick (4)
26 Buffalo (5)
28 Faucet (3)
29 Very nearly (6)
30 Large wooded area (6)
31 Yes votes (4)
32 Makes bigger (8)
33 Conservatives (6)

DOWN
1 Excellent (6)
2 Motive (6)
3 Fish type (4)
4 Young hare (7)
5 Flying toys (5)
6 Cults (5)
8 Brush this (4)
9 Information (3)
12 Hill (3)
13 Chair carried on poles (5)
15 Short stoppage (5)
18 Month (5)
19 Lettuce (3)
20 Snoop (3)
21 Reprimand (7)
22 A low (3)
23 Move swiftly along (6)
24 Primates (4)
25 Goes in (6)
26 Bread maker (5)
27 Facial expression (5)
28 Plaything (3)
30 Go without food (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12345

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, F-lout 6, Mails 9, Savages 10, Titan 11, Thos.-E 12, Pithy 13, Fuelled 15, 'Tis 17, Apse 18, An-them 19, Cab-le 20, Trajan 22, Cost 24, Hay 25, Not-able 26, Stout 27, To-we-L 28, Times (smite) 29, New t-own 30, Maids 31, Og-le-d.
DOWN: 2, Laid up 3, Us-able 4, Tan 5, Rapid(s) 6, Methane 7, Ashy 8, L-ass-ie 12, Peca-N 13, Faith 14, ES-say 15, Th-R-ob 16, Smite 18, All-ot 19, Cast-Les 21, Ramona 22, Casing 23, Sleeve 25, Nutty 26, S-end 28, Two.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Trust 6, Cacti 9, Tearful 10, Adorn 11, Darts 12, Sends 13, Saffron 15, Dry 17, Ague 18, Bemuse 19, Aides 20, Absurd 22, Star 24, Day 25, Pronoun 26, Tepid 27, Again 28, Spout 29, Matinee 30, Bevel 31, Trite.
DOWN: 2, Red rag 3, Strife 4, Ten 5, Green 6, Cuddles 7, Alas 8, Tutors 12, Solid 13, Salad 14, Fussy 15, Due to 16, Yearn 18, Beard 19, Arsenal 21, Bangle 22, Sniper 23, August 25, Pixie 26, Time 28, Set.

◆SU-DO-KU-6821◆

		9		7				4
		5	6		3	2		
	3			9	5			
7				8	1		5	
	9						4	
	2		9	6				1
			8	5			1	
		7	1		2	8		
1				3		4		

hard

4	8	5	6	9	7	1	2	3
7	9	6	3	2	1	5	8	4
1	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	6
6	7	3	4	1	2	8	9	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	7	3	2
5	2	9	8	7	3	6	4	1
9	5	8	1	3	4	2	6	7
2	6	4	7	5	9	3	1	8
3	1	7	2	8	6	4	5	9

SOLUTION TO 6820

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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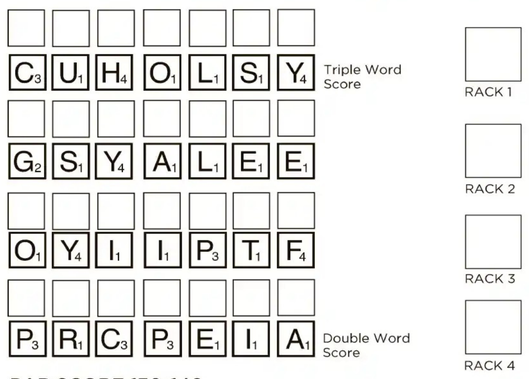
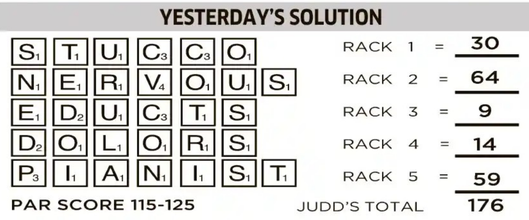

C3 U1 H4 O1 L1 S1 Y4 Triple Word Score
G2 S1 Y4 A1 L1 E1 E1
O1 Y4 I1 I1 P3 T1 F4
P3 R1 C3 P3 E1 I1 A1 Double Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



PAR SCORE 115-125
JUDD'S TOTAL 176

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

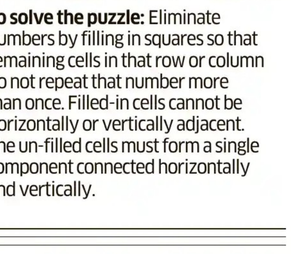
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OLKCC

RDOBO

RGLEIB

ZFILZE


Looks like my straight flush beats your straight.
Time to pony up and get more chips.
How could I lose? That's all my money.
If you're done, we'll need your seat.
HE LOST ALL HIS MONEY PLAYING POKER AFTER DECIDING TO ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOIST PHOTO GROUND BUFFET
Answer: When the chef dreamed up new recipes, it was — FOOD FOR THOUGHT

HITORI-3275

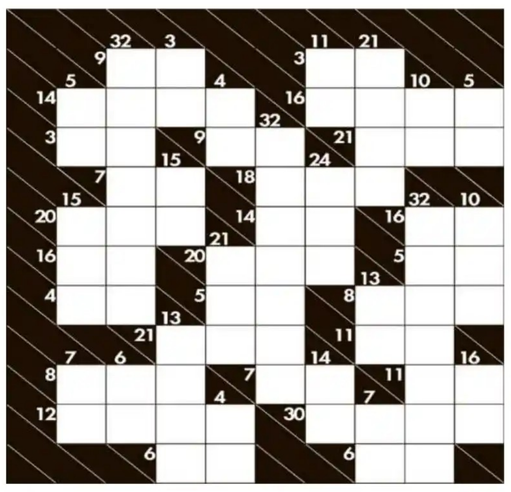
5	4	7	2	7	6	8	1
1	8	5	3	7	8	6	1
3	2	7	6	4	7	1	7
2	7	7	2	3	8	3	4
7	6	4	5	8	7	2	3
4	8	3	8	7	1	7	7
8	3	2	7	1	4	7	6
1	8	8	4	5	2	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3274

■	1	3	4	■	2	8	7
1	3	■	5	7	■	6	■
8	■	6	■	4	3	1	5
3	7	4	2	■	6	■	8
■	5	■	7	3	8	2	6
6	4	8	3	1	■	5	■
■	8	5	■	6	4	3	2
5	2	■	6	8	1	■	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3275



SOLUTION TO 3274

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3817

■			4	1			7	■
7	■			3		9	■	
		3				4		8
			1		9	6		
				■		5		
			6	5	■		8	
		■				■		6
1	2			8			■	
■					7			4

SOLUTION TO 3816

8	5	3	6	9	1	7	4	2
9	4	1	2	8	7	6	3	5
2	7	6	5	3	4	9	8	1
4	2	7	3	6	5	1	9	8
3	1	5	9	7	8	2	6	4
6	8	9	4	1	2	3	5	7
7	9	8	1	4	3	5	2	6
5	6	4	7	2	9	8	1	3
1	3	2	8	5	6	4	7	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump hosts Colombia's Petro just weeks after insulting him

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump is holding talks with Colombian President Gustavo Petro at the White House on Tuesday, only weeks after threatening military action against the South American country and accusing the leader of pumping cocaine into the United States.

US administration officials say the meeting will focus on regional security cooperation and counter-narcotics efforts. And Trump on Monday suggested that Petro - who has continued to criticise Trump and the US operation to capture Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro - seems more willing to work with his administration to stem the flow of illegal drugs from Colombia.

"Somehow after the Venezuelan raid, he became very nice," Trump told reporters. "He changed his attitude very much." Yet, bad blood between the leaders overshadows the sit-down, even as Trump sought to downplay any friction on the eve of the visit. The conservative Trump and leftist Petro are ideologically far apart, but both leaders share a tendency for verbal bombast and unpredictability. That sets the stage for a White House visit with an anything-could-happen vibe.

India to retain some farm protections in trade deal: US

Industrial tariffs to fall to zero as details are finalised

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The Trump administration is working to put on paper the details of its trade deal with India announced on Monday, under which India will cut tariffs on American industrial goods to zero from 13.5% while maintaining some agricultural import protections, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Tuesday.

Greer told CNBC in a live interview that the US would continue to seek access to certain protected areas of India's agriculture sector. However, he said India's tariffs "for a variety of things — tree nuts, wine, spirits, fruits, vegetables, etc — are going down to zero".

He did not mention rice, beef, soybeans, sugar or dairy, commodities that India excluded from its recent trade deal with the European Union.

Greer confirmed that the deal would reduce the US tariff on most Indian goods to 18% from 50%, citing the size and growth of India's trade surplus with the US. That surplus reached $53.5 billion during the first 11 months of 2025, up from $45.8 billion for the whole of 2024, according to US Census Bureau data.

Greer said the Trump administration had reached an "understanding and an agreement with the Indians as well on a variety of technical barriers to trade", referring to areas where India has not accepted US standards. "We know American goods are safe," he said.

He added that there would be "a process for recognising US standards", but said India would need to go through its own political processes before accepting them. He said this would open up a market of more than one billion people to more US goods.

On India's agreement to wind down Russian crude oil imports, Greer said that prior to 2022 and 2023, India did not import Russian oil and has been working since late last year to reduce those purchases. He said India was "making the right choice" by diversifying its energy imports towards the US and Venezuela.

Greer did not specify a start date for the tariff changes, saying the process of making the deal official was under way.

"We'll finish papering it, but we know the specifics, we know the details," Greer said, adding that India would retain some protection for agricultural goods.

Employees work at a garment factory in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. Indian exporters on Tuesday hailed a breakthrough trade deal with the US after President Donald Trump slashed tariffs on Indian goods, ending months of tensions. AFP FILE

DETAILS OF THE DEAL

- India to eliminate duties on certain goods immediately, phase out duties on others, reduce duties in some sectors, and provide quota-based tariff concessions for select products. However, sensitive sectors like dairy and agri are out of the ambit of the pact.
- An executive order from the US would provide greater clarity on the tariff issues, and a joint statement will outline the sectors covered under the deal. Both are awaited.

JAMIESON GREER
US Trade Representative

"We'll finish papering it, but we know the specifics. We know the details. It's a very exciting opportunity.

China to ban hidden door handles on cars starting 2027

HONG KONG, AP/PTI: China will ban hidden door handles on cars, commonly used on Tesla's electric vehicles and many other EV models, starting next year.

All car doors must include a mechanical release function for handles, except for the tailgate, according to details released by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Monday. Officials said the policy aims to address safety concerns after fatal EV accidents where electronic doors reportedly failed to operate and trapped passengers inside vehicles.

The new requirement will take effect on January 1, 2027. For car models that were already approved, carmakers will have until January 1, 2029, to make design changes to match the regulations. Vehicles, including Tesla's Model Y and Model 3, BMW's iX3, and other models by many Chinese brands, feature retractable car door handles that could be subject to the new rules.

French prosecutors raid X offices

PARIS, AP/PTI: French prosecutors searched the offices of Elon Musk's social media platform X on Tuesday as part of a preliminary investigation into a range of alleged offences, including spreading child sexual abuse images and deepfakes.

The investigation was opened in January last year, the Paris prosecutors' office said in a statement. It is looking into alleged "complicity" in possession and spreading of pornographic images of minors, sexually explicit deepfakes, denial of crimes against humanity and manipulation of an automated data processing system as part of an organised group, among other charges.

In addition, prosecutors filed a request for "voluntary interviews" of Elon Musk and Linda Yaccarino, CEO of X from 2023 to 2025, scheduled for April 20.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Aircraft of Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force's Bayi aerobatic team perform an aerial display at the Singapore Airshow in Singapore on Tuesday. AFP

Pope faces crisis as bishops plan unsanctioned consecrations

▸ Pope Leo XIV is facing his first major crisis with traditionalist Catholics, after a breakaway group attached to the traditional Latin Mass announced plans to consecrate new bishops without papal consent in a threatened revival of schism, AP/PTI reports from Vatican City.

The Swiss-based Society of St Pius X, which has schools, chapels and seminaries around the world, has been a thorn in the side of the Holy See for four decades, opposed to the modernising reforms of the 1960s Second Vatican Council. In 1988, the group's founder, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, consecrated four bishops without papal consent, arguing that it was necessary for the survival of the church's tradition. The Vatican promptly excommunicated Lefebvre and the four other bishops, and the group today still has no legal status in the Catholic Church. But in the decades since that original break with Rome, the group has continued to grow, with branches of priests, nuns and lay Catholics who are attached to the pre-Vatican II traditional Latin Mass.

Gandhi's statue stolen in Oz

▸ India on Tuesday strongly condemned the theft of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Australian Indian Community Centre in Melbourne and demanded immediate action to recover it, PTI reports from New Delhi.

The bronze statue was allegedly removed from the community centre at Rowville in Melbourne in the early hours of January 12. "We strongly condemn the vandalisation and removal of the Mahatma Gandhi statue," external affairs ministry said. The statue, weighing 420 kg was cut from its base with a grinder, leaving only the feet, according to media reports.

Nasa delays moon rocket launch

▸ Nasa said on Tuesday it will now target a March launch of its new moon rocket after running into exasperating fuel leaks during a make-or-break test a day earlier, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral (US).

The space agency said in a statement that the launch delay will "allow teams to review data and conduct a second wet dress rehearsal" before the flight test. The leaks - reminiscent of the rocket's delayed debut three years ago - sprang just a couple hours into the daylong fueling operation Monday at Kennedy Space Centre and called into question how soon astronauts could take off.

Russia resumes strikes on major Ukrainian cities

Attacks on energy sites and cities a diplomatic snub, says Zelenskyy

KYIV, AP/PTI

Russia fired around 450 long-range drones and 70 missiles of various types at Ukraine in a major attack overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday.

The barrage came a day before the two countries were due to attend US-brokered talks in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on ending the all-out war, which Russia launched nearly four years ago.

The bombardment of at least five regions of Ukraine specifically took aim at the power grid, Zelenskyy said, as part of Moscow's ongoing campaign to deny civilians light, heating and running water amid the coldest winter in years. At least 10 people were wounded, officials said.

"Taking advantage of the coldest days of winter to terrorise people is more important to Russia than diplomacy," Zelenskyy said.

He urged allies to send more air defence supplies and bring "maximum pressure" to bear on Russia to end its full-scale invasion, which began on February 24, 2022.

Officials have described recent talks between Moscow and Kyiv delegations as constructive. But after a year of efforts, the Trump administration is still searching for a breakthrough on key issues such as who keeps the Ukrainian land that Russia's army has occupied, and a comprehensive settlement appears distant.

Firefighters work at the site of the apartment building hit by a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday. REUTERS

US shoots down Iranian drone

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The US military on Tuesday shot down an Iranian drone that "aggressively" approached the Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea, the US military said.

The Iranian Shahed-139 drone was flying towards the carrier "with unclear intent" and was shot down by a US F-35 fighter jet, it said.

"An F-35C fighter jet from Abraham Lincoln shot down the Iranian drone in self-defence and to protect the aircraft carrier and personnel on board," said Navy Captain Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for the US Central Command. No American personnel were harmed and no US equipment was damaged, he added.

The incident came as diplomats sought talks between Iran and the US, and as President Donald Trump warned "bad things" would happen if a deal could not be reached.

Despite the drone incident, talks between US and Iranian officials are "still scheduled" this week, the White House said. US envoy Steve Witkoff "is set to have conversations with the Iranians later this week those are still scheduled as of right now," it added.

India leading in global aviation growth, says report

SINGAPORE, PTI: Asia is emerging as the engine of global aviation growth, with India, China and Southeast Asia forecast to account for eight of the world's 10 fastest-growing air travel markets between 2024 and 2044, according to a whitepaper released on Monday, ahead of the 2026 Singapore Airshow.

The paper by Alton Aviation Consultancy outlines that international traffic in Asia-Pacific grew by 8.0 per cent in 2025, outpacing global RPK growth of 6.8 per cent. Carriers across the region have launched more than 600 new routes since 2015, significantly improving access to underserved destinations and enhancing intra-regional connectivity.

The whitepaper highlights India as one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, underpinned by robust economic fundamentals and a rapidly expanding middle class.

While China continues to play a dominant role, Alton notes that Southeast Asia is an emerging growth region, led by markets such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Mabel Kwan, Managing Director in Alton's Singapore office, said, "Asia's air travel story is no longer just about China. The growth we're seeing in South and Southeast Asia is broad-based. Airlines are responding with strategic moves, from entering new markets and renewing fleets to forging ambitious partnerships that reflect the region's evolving competitive dynamics."

Indian-origin man convicted of rape stripped of US citizenship

NEW YORK, PTI: An Indian-origin man will be stripped of his American citizenship after it emerged he had concealed information from federal authorities that he had sexually assaulted a female passenger in his taxicab.

Gurmeet Singh, who became a naturalised US citizen, had concealed and misrepresented in the naturalisation application that he had previously kidnapped and raped a female passenger of his taxicab.

The United States filed a denaturalisation action in the Eastern District of New York against him this week.

Authorities said Singh had entered the US through family-based immigration laws.

"This Department of Justice will continue to strip citizenship from those who commit heinous crimes and conceal them during the naturalisation process," said Attorney General Pamela Bondi.

"American citizenship is a great and sacred privilege that must be earned honestly," she added.

According to the Justice Department, Singh drove his passenger to a side street after she fell asleep in the backseat of his cab.

Clintons agree to testify in Epstein investigation

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Former US president Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have finalised an agreement with House Republicans to testify this month in a House investigation into Jeffrey Epstein, bowing to the threat of a contempt of Congress vote against them.

Hillary Clinton will testify before the House Oversight Committee on February 26, while Bill Clinton will appear on February 27. It will mark the first time lawmakers have compelled a former president to testify.

The agreement follows months of negotiations as Republicans sought to make the Clintons a focal point of a House committee investigation into Epstein, a convicted sex offender who died by suicide in a New York jail cell in 2019.

The Clintons had resisted the subpoenas, but House Republicans — with support from a handful of Democrats — advanced criminal contempt of Congress charges that could have been brought to a vote this week.

The move threatened the Clintons with substantial fines and even prison time if they had been convicted.

- The Clintons had resisted the subpoenas, but House Republicans – with some Democrats – advanced criminal contempt of Congress charges that could have been brought to a vote. The move threatened the Clintons with fines and even prison time.

Sarah's Trust – the charity founded by former Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson – is shutting down following the release of emails showing the depth of her friendship with the late American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. AFP FILE

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No.: KSFIC/RM-RMP/FIREWOOD & PULPWOOD SALE/ CR-01/2025-26 Date:03.02.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tender is invited from the intended Industries/ Companies/ Individuals for purchase of Eucalyptus/Acacia Pulpwood and Firewood prepared by the RMP unit, KSFIC, Bangaluru. The details are as under :

1) Last date to receive the bid through E-Procurement is on **10.02.2026 upto 03:30 P.M. 2)** Interested persons have to pay EMD deposit at E-Procurement as per the detailed conditions laid in the notification **dated 03.02.2026**.

The Notification and other details can be accessed from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** e-procurement help line No.080-46010000 & 080-68948777. Further details can also be had from the above Office during Office hours.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forest and Regional Manager, RMP Unit, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/ 5399/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagar Sub Division, Zone-2,
Halasuru Lake Tank Bund Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560042.

No: AEE(SJN)/PR/Quot/04/2025-26 Date: 03-02-2026

NOTIFICATION

The Assistant Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Sub Division, Zone-2, Bengaluru Central City Corporation invited item-wise Rate Quotations for the purpose of taking up the work of **Providing to School Bench with Table for Hafiziya School at Cockburn Road in Ward No. 119, Shivajinagara,** subject to the terms and conditions stipulated under the KTPP Rules, 2000.

Sl. No.	Description	Unit	Qty.	Rate
1	School bench 4 feet for 1st to 5th MS Frame with Powder Coating with Green Ply Top with Laminated Colour options available.	1	Nos	
2	School bench 6 feet for 6th to 10th MS Frame with Powder Coating with Green Ply Top with Laminated Colour options available.	1	Nos	

Interested bidders, in accordance with the above mentioned Rate Schedules, shall Submit their Quotations in the prescribed format in a Sealed Cover to the above mentioned Office during office hours **06-02-2026 before 4.30 PM.** Quotations received after the stipulated time will be rejected. **The quotations will be opened on the same day at 5.00 PM** in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who are present, and further action will be taken for rate approval.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Sub Division, Zone-2, BCCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರಿಂದ ಒಟ್ಟು 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕ್ವೋರಿಸ್ ಗೆ ದಿ: 13.02.2026 ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ: 09.02.2026 ರಂದು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 20.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.962.46 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.14.44 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/DDMYS/1593/KSMCA/902/2025-26

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು
ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ
ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560 100
e-Mail:ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com | Web: www.doddathoguru.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ.ದೊಪಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/06/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03/02/2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sl No	Indent No.
01	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK INDENT39191/Call-3
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT53093/Call-2

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.02.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22111177. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/5393/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

Sensex soars 2,073 points on India-US trade deal optimism

All sectoral indices end in green, led by Nifty Realty index

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The India-US trade deal announcement gave a huge boost to the market sentiment with benchmark Sensex and Nifty 50 rallying by over 2.5% and the rupee registering best single-day gain in over seven years on Tuesday.

The rally made investors richer by over Rs 12 lakh crore. The market capitalisation of all listed companies on the BSE jumped by Rs 467.20 lakh crore, which is over Rs 12 lakh crore higher than the previous day.

The 30-stock benchmark Sensex of the BSE surged by 2,072.67 points or 2.54% to 83,739.13 points. The Nifty 50 of the NSE 639.15 points or 2.55% to 25,727.55 points.

"Indian equities experienced a significant rally, driven by the long-anticipated India-US trade deal and a strengthening rupee, which boosted expectations of renewed FII inflows," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Investments Limited.

All sectoral indices ended in the green, led by the Nifty Realty index, which surged over 4%. The Nifty Chemical, Pharma, and Consumer Durables indices also jumped more than 3% each.

"Overall market sentiment has turned decisively positive, with global trade risks easing and moderation in the US-Iran conflict. Going forward, the markets could focus more on the ongoing Q3 corporate results with a positive bias, which till date have been below estimates, because of potential future earnings upgrades led by reduction in tariff risk," Nair said.

The Indian rupee surged by 1.28% to 90.32 against the US dollar. This is the best single-day gain in the value of the Indian currency since December 2018.

"The agreement has significantly improved sentiment, as expectations of stronger trade flows and potential FII inflows have boosted confidence in the domestic currency," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

The markets rallied after US President Donald Trump announced a lower tariff on import of goods from India to 18%, from the current 50%.

According to analysts, the reduction of US tariffs on Indian goods from 50% to 18% would enhance India's competitive position among emerging markets and bolster the outlook for export-oriented sectors with high US exposure, such as textiles, aquaculture, gems and pharmaceuticals.

Silver, gold rally after 3-day slump

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver and gold prices ended a three-day steep fall and rebounded sharply in the national capital on Tuesday, with the white metal surging Rs 24,000 to Rs 2.84 lakh per kg, while gold climbed to Rs 1.57 lakh per 10 grams amid firm global cues and a weak US dollar.

The rebound followed a steep three-day fall in which silver prices plummeted Rs 1,44,500, or nearly 36% from Rs 4,04,500 per kg — its all-time high — recorded on January 29.

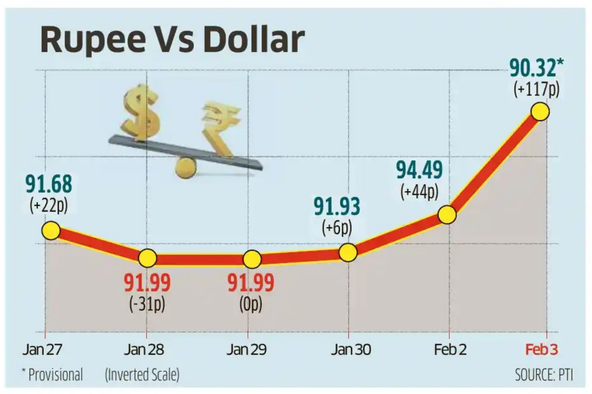
Gold of 99.9% purity also recovered, rising Rs 5,000, or 3.3%, to Rs 1,57,700 per 10 grams from Monday's closing level of Rs 1,52,700 per 10 grams.

In the international markets, both precious metals mirrored the domestic rebound, with spot silver prices gaining $9.55, or 12.07% to $88.77 per ounce, while gold climbed to $275.39, or 5.91%, to $4,935.49 per ounce.

Rupee jumps 117 paise to close at 90.32 against dollar

Forex traders say trade deal to reopen door for FII participation

MUMBAI, PTI



The Indian rupee emerged as the best-performing Asian currency on Tuesday, registering a record gain of 117 paise or 1.28% in a single trading session to settle at 90.32 against the US dollar, after India and the US agreed to a trade deal.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee rose to the highest levels in two-and-half weeks and rallied by around 1.5% on the trade deal between India and the US.

Domestic indices also surged by around 2.75%, boosting domestic market sentiments. Further, weakness in crude prices and massive foreign fund inflows also favoured investor sentiment.

India and the US agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18%, lower than that for countries like China, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 90.30 against the dollar, then gained some ground to touch an intraday high of 90.05 and a low of 90.52 against the greenback.

At the end of the trading session on Tuesday, the rupee was quoted at 90.32 against the greenback, registering a gain of 117 paise from its previous close. The rupee gained 44 paise to close at 91.49 against the US dollar on Monday, a day after the Union Budget 2026-27 was presented.

PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" that will benefit everyone in the country, and asserted that his government always works in favour of the nation.

Easing pressure

Forex traders said the trade deal will reopen the door for FII participation, and if capital flows recover in CY26, it would ease some pressure on the rupee.

"With the reciprocal tariffs on India's exports to the US now lowered, we estimate the current account deficit to narrow by around 0.25% of GDP in CY26 to 0.8% of GDP," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05% lower at 97.57.

Trade deal boost for electronics, semicon, tech ecosystem

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The reduction of US tariffs to 18% will significantly improve the country's position in global semiconductor, electronics and tech ecosystems. Analysts said this comes at a time when global firms are expanding or enhancing their production capacity in the country.

For US chip companies reassessing supply-chain concentration risks, cost predictability, and long-term economics are critical. This move brings Indian OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) services closer to global benchmarks, particularly when compared with Southeast Asian alternatives, Shetal Mehta, Co-founder, Suchi Semicon, said.

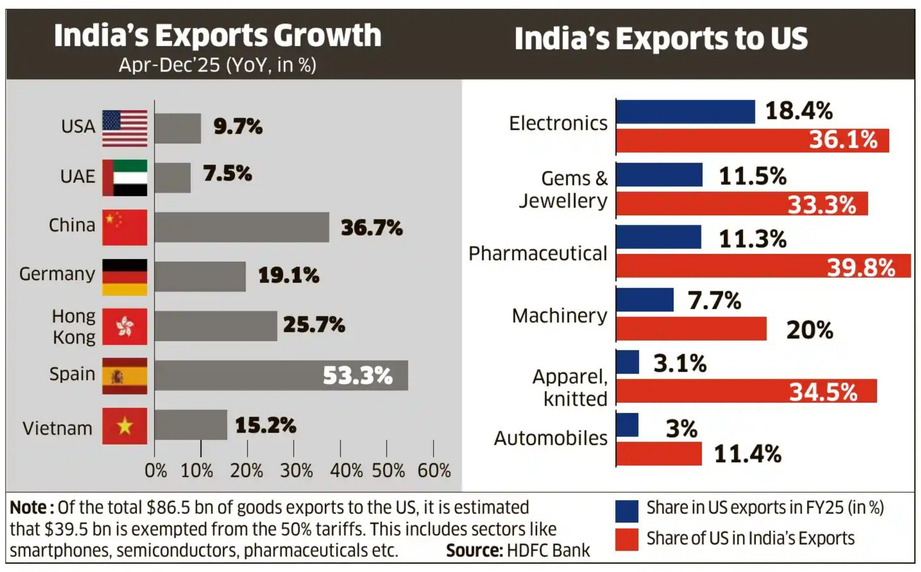
Also, the timing is equally important. Semiconductor firms are actively diversifying assembly and testing operations beyond traditional hubs. "Indian OSAT facilities today offer scalable capacity, improving yields, and quality systems aligned with international standards. A clearer tariff framework reduces friction in commercial negotiations and enables structured discussions around volume commitments and long-term partnerships," Mehta said.

According to him, this policy shift improves the country's chances of being included in multi-year backend manufacturing programmes rather than short-term pilot engagements. It supports higher utilisation of domestic OSAT capacity, encourages fresh capital investment, and strengthens the country's role in global semiconductor supply chains at a time when reliability and geopolitical neutrality are key decision factors.

The vision of $500 billion bilateral trade can have over $100 billion trade for the electronics and semiconductor sector, said Ashok Chandak, President of SEMI India and IESA.

"By improving market access, enabling smoother flow of capital equipment and advanced technologies, and — when complemented by the iCET and TRUST initiatives — strengthening trusted supply chains and deepening technology collaboration, the agreement significantly enhances India's attractiveness as a global manufacturing and innovation hub," Chandak said.

It will accelerate semiconductor design and manufacturing, boost electronics value-addition, and expand cooperation across AI, data centres, and advanced manufacturing, creating high-skill jobs and positioning India as a strategic and reliable partner in the global technology value-chain, he added.



Note : Of the total $86.5 bn of goods exports to the US, it is estimated that $39.5 bn is exempted from the 50% tariffs. This includes sectors like smartphones, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals etc. **Source:** HDFC Bank

IT services to see deal momentum improving from US clients

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Not just technology collaboration, the India-US trade deal will help improve momentum among US clients, as IT services firms hugely depend on the United States.

Gaurav Vasu, Founder and CEO of UnearthInsight, said the India-US trade deal brings clarity for Indian IT services and GCCs, easing concerns around potential outsourcing restrictions. More than immediate relief, it restores confidence in cross-border technology collaboration and long-term investment planning.

"This stability is critical at a time when enterprises are reassessing global delivery models and scaling high-value digital and engineering work from India," Vasu said.

From a sectoral lens, export-oriented segments such as IT services, pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals, auto ancillaries, and select engineering goods stand to benefit the most, Sonam Srivastava, Founder and Fund Manager at Wright Research PMS, said.

The US is to lower the reciprocal tariff on Indian imports from 25% to 18%. This deal will help IT services firms in terms of clarity, and there will be increased deal momentum and client spending, going forward.

Apart from the IT services sector, the deal will also encourage the infrastructure sector.

Ashish Suman, Partner, JSA, said increased imports of US goods are likely to provide improved access to advanced machinery and technology, which will surely benefit the construction sector, with such technology being accessible at lesser-than-earlier cost. "Investments in the refineries, storage & downstream logistics infrastructure will also see a surge as the deal provides an overall message of predictable energy supply and cooperation. With investor confidence being restored, we can see accelerated investment of US companies in India's expanding AI and data centre ecosystem," Suman said.

Diamond exports to benefit from zero duty imports in US

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The India-US trade deal offers vital relief to India's gem and jewellery sector amid US tariff pressures, said chairman of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

"The US accounts for 31% ($9.23 billion) of FY2024-25 exports — India's largest market. Tariff cuts lower costs for US importers, provides immense relief to diamond jewellery manufacturers, boost competitiveness of Indian diamond jewellery, revive demand, and stabilise operations," said GJEPC Chairman Kirit Bhansali.

"The GJEPC is optimistic that with India signing the trade deal, loose diamonds and coloured gemstones from India will get the benefit of zero duty imports in the US vide Annexure 3 of the US reciprocal tariff list, providing much-needed support for diamond exports. This will enhance trade flows, rebuild confidence, and deliver a strong sector-wide boost," he added. The GJEPC also lauded the efforts of PM Narendra Modi, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US President Donald Trump.

In 2025, reciprocal tariffs disrupted trade flows to the US sharply. Duties on polished diamonds and coloured gemstones surged from 0% to 10% in April, then to 50% by August — unviable for these raw materials, which strained working capital, liquidity, and margins. Jewellery duties jumped from 5-7% to 55-57%.

US tariff cut sparks hope among Andhra shrimp farmers

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Shrimp farmers, traders, and exporters in Andhra Pradesh are optimistic about a revival in the aquaculture sector, following reports of a finalised US trade deal slashing reciprocal tariff to 18%.

The hope follows a tough year after US President Donald Trump announced 50% tariffs on Indian goods in late July 2025, when shrimp aquaculture output plunged nearly 40%, according to market insiders. Traders and exporters faced reduced volumes and struggled to secure alternative overseas markets comparable to the US.

"Many farmers quit aquaculture in the last six months due to fewer liftings by traders or drastically low rates. We are now hopeful of a revival, with some farmers returning if the 18% tariff holds still a burden, but better than nothing. Prices for 30-count and 100-count shrimp dropped drastically," Rudraraju Suryanarayana Raju, who runs 50 acres of shrimp farms in Bhimavaram, West Godavari told *DH*.

In FY2023-24, India exported $2.55 billion in marine products to the US, with shrimp making up 92% and Andhra Pradesh supplying roughly 75% of India's total shrimp exports.

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Kinjarapu Atchennaidu, also hoped for the US government's decision to reduce tariffs on Indian marine food exports from 25% to 18%, would provide significant relief to marine food exporters in the state, particularly the aqua sector.

Rice exporters welcome tariff cut, expect demand in key markets

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid assurance by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to protect the interest of Indian agriculture and dairy sectors in the India-US trade deal, rice exporters have welcomed US tariff cut to 18%.

While there is no clarity on other agriculture sector products deal between the two countries, India's rice exporters have said that reduction in tariff would boost competitiveness and demand in key markets.

The Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) said, "Indian agri products continue to hold an indispensable position in global supply chains, and recent shipment patterns suggest clear demand resilience even under sharply higher duties."

India exported 1,99,0558 tonnes of basmati rice and 40,960 tonnes of non-basmati rice to the US during April-November of the current fiscal. In the full FY2024-25, India exported 2,74,213 tonnes of basmati rice and 61,341 tonnes of non-basmati rice to the US.

However, on the agricultural front, US Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins stated, "The new US-India deal will export more American farm products to India's massive market, lifting prices, and pumping cash into rural America." Rollins further pointed to the commercial implications, noting, "In 2024, America's agricultural trade deficit with India was $1.3 billion. India's growing population is an important market for US agricultural products and today's deal will go a long way to reducing this deficit."

According to the data available, the US agricultural exports in 2025 reached approximately $1.7 billion.

Trade deal cheer: Apparel industry hopes to increase exports to US

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Exporters in Tiruppur are optimistic after US tariffs on Indian imports fell to 18%, expecting US buyers to clear Rs 4,000 crore worth of goods held up for the past four months. The knitwear hub, which accounts for 55% of Indian exports, anticipates a surge in orders, gaining a competitive edge over rivals like Vietnam and Bangladesh facing higher tariffs.

The exporters are elated that the announcement of lower US tariff comes just a week after India and the EU concluded the FTA, which will further open the key market to players from Tiruppur. EU and US markets alone account for about 60% of knitwear exports from Tiruppur.

The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) said the reduction of the tariff to 18% would significantly enhance global competitiveness of Indian textile exports and restore confidence across the industry.

SIMA chairman Durai Palanisamy said the India-US trade deal and the FTA with Europe are expected to trigger a significant surge in demand, strengthen export momentum and place the country on a higher and more sustainable growth trajectory.

Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) president KM Subramanian told *DH* that the exporters disposed of goods worth Rs 3,000 crore in the past four months by offering 15-30% discounts to the buyers.

"The trade deal augurs well for the apparel industry. We hope to increase our exports to the US and the EU in the coming months," Subramanian said.

"Only low-priced garments like polo t-shirts, round-neck t-shirts, and others got stuck in godowns. The value of these goods would be between Rs 3,000 crore and Rs 4,000 crore. With the tariffs coming down, we don't think the buyers will have a problem in taking them," he added.

The exporters say the knitwear hub might have lost Rs 2,000 crore as fresh orders were not forthcoming, but express hope that they will be able to compensate the loss in coming months. India has a competitive edge since its competing countries are at higher tariffs, with Indonesia at 19%, Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%), and China (34%).

SUPPLY CHAIN SPREAD

Lower US tariffs give Indian auto components a competitive edge

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

The India-US trade agreement, which has reduced reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18%, has been welcomed by the auto component sector, underlining the pact's importance in strengthening global supply chains and improving export competitiveness.

The deal is expected to most-favourably impact export-oriented sectors such as auto components, which were hit hard when the Trump administration imposed tariffs of up to 50% on Indian goods.

"The India-US trade deal is particularly positive for export-oriented sectors with meaningful exposure to the US market," Axis Direct said in a report, adding that the auto ancillaries sector stands to benefit from improved market access, tariff rationalisation and greater supply-chain certainty.

The moderation in tariffs represents a meaningful tailwind for Indian automobile exporters, especially auto component manufacturers, for whom the US remains a key market contributing 25-30% of export revenues. The US is among the most-important destinations for India's auto component industry. Exports to the US stood at $3.12 billion in the first half of the current financial year, while US exports to India were valued at $844 million during the same period.

Calling the agreement a positive step, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) said it would enhance the competitiveness of Indian goods in the US market. "The proposed reduction in reciprocal tariffs to 18% is a positive step that will enhance the competitiveness of Indian automotive components in the US market," ACMA President Vikrampati Singhania said. He added that at a time when global supply chains are undergoing structural realignments, the deal provides greater predictability and confidence for long-term trade and investment decisions.

Analysts said the sharp rollback in duties materially reduces export friction, enhances cost-competitiveness and strengthens India's role in global OEM sourcing, while the benefit for vehicle OEMs remains relatively limited due to low direct exports.

Accordingly, auto ancillary companies are expected to capture a larger share of the gains than vehicle manufacturers, given higher export intensity, contractual supply arrangements and limited dependence on end-market pricing.

TVS Motor Company Chairman Sudarshan Venu said the intent to progressively lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers could deepen supply-chain integration, enable faster technology collaboration and attract investment into advanced manufacturing.

"The immediate reduction in reciprocal tariffs, along with the commitment to progressively lower barriers, will improve predictability for businesses," Mahindra Group CEO and MD Anish Shah said.

State govt inks LoI with Düsseldorf

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics and IT, Government of Karnataka, signed a letter of intent (LoI) with the city of Düsseldorf, Germany, on Tuesday. The partnership seeks to enable startup market access, soft-landing support, and ecosystem integration.

A few priority sectors under the cooperation include Industry 4.0, Health Technology and Green Technology. "Germany is one of Karnataka's most important global innovation partners. The LoI strengthens our efforts to create structured, outcome-driven global innovation corridors," said IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

KSDL logs new output record in Jan

BENGALURU, DHNS: State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) has achieved an all-time production of 4,894 metric tonnes of soaps and other products in January this year. The production comprised 3,798 tonnes in the soap segment, 941 tonnes in the detergents segment, and 155 tonnes in the cosmetics segment, KSDL said in a statement. KSDL, currently, offers over 45 products. The company's turnover is targeted to be scaled up to Rs 5,000 crore by 2030, it said.

Kashvi: Teen prodigy turning into a run-machine

Karnataka under-15 captain dreams of playing WPL, winning the World Cup for India

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

When you first hear about Kashvi Kandikuppa, you will find it tough to believe what she has achieved at the age of 14. But isn't that what sporting prodigies do?

The run-charts of the BCCI Women's under-15 one-day tournament show 516 runs at an impressive average of 172 with three hundreds and one fifty next to the Karnataka girl's name.

She was also the captain of the U-15 State side, and has the experience of leading the Bengaluru Blasters in the Maharani Trophy.

According to CricHeroes' app, the Bengaluru teen has scored over 13,000 runs in 530 matches across Karnataka, including 24 centuries and 68 half-centuries.

She was awarded the Young Talent Award at the India Nippon Cup aged nine while sharing the dressing room with India internationals Veda Krishnamurthy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Shreyanka Patil.

So, three virtues define her nascent career -- leadership qualities, performance and consistency -- a prodigy in every sense of the word.

While there is a wow factor to her, it was a small cricket academy opposite her house where Kashvi started playing, aged seven and a half. And seven years later, she's among the most prolific talents in Karnataka.

However, success has not been overnight. And for the first 24 months, it was the sheer grind towards fitness and basics.

"The first year and a half, it was all about fitness and I am reaping rewards for it. Then I started working on my basics. It was step by step, and if you see my game, the basics are very strong, as I worked two years on it," Kashvi tells *DH*.

The journey, however, has not been without setbacks. And instead of dwelling on it, she was courageous enough to find a solution.

"When I was young, I did not get many chances. I used to go and not get batting or bowling. It felt like I was wasting time. So I shifted to a different academy (NICE Academy) and got more opportunities and exposure. Luckily, it worked out."

Her desire to move away paid off when she was given a chance to spend time with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru side.

"(NICE coach) Arjun (Dev) sir took me to the RCB camp. I got to bowl to many players like Richa (Ghosh) and Perry (Ellyse). It was actually a really good experience. You learn a lot of things because it is very different from what we play."

Stressing on her learnings, "I liked the aggressive approach to their game. But importantly, I understood it is important to back yourself no matter what."

Talking about her quest for the bigger goal, "The roadmap for me from here is that I want to represent India at the under-19 level. Then slowly ease into Women's Premier League teams, but the ultimate goal is obviously to lift the World Cup for India."

Kashvi has the means and motivation to achieve her dreams.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE

Kashvi Kandikuppa
Age: 14

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Women's Under-19 T20 Trophy:** Winner
- **Women's Under-19 one-day Trophy:** semifinalist
- **Karnataka Women's League:** Joint-winner
- **Maharani T20 League:** Captain (Bengaluru Blasters)

TENNIS DAVIS CUP QUALIFIERS

'No top players, no problem'

Dutch captain Haarhuis confident of a good outing

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Netherlands' captain Paul Haarhuis (right) during his team's practice session ahead of their Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st round tie against India at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

The Indian team was going through its drills and honing skills for the second day when team Netherlands stepped foot for the first time here at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Tuesday. Even as his Indian counterpart Rohit Rajpal was busy giving instructions to his wards on court, Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, with both hands on his hips, took a good look at the venue from the stands where painters, carpenters and other workers were busy providing finishing touches for the Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st round encounter between India and the Netherlands this weekend.

"Well, so far the flight was good, the hotel is very nice, and the courts look beautiful. So today we're going to have our first practice," Haarhuis said with a smile, even as his eyes remained fixed on the Indian players sweating it out.

"It's an important match for both teams. Everybody wants to be in the next round in September, in the main draw, in the world group. The Indians have played well to come here, and they're going to be strong (opponents) for our team. So I'm expecting a very tough match," offered the 59-year-old, who was a former world No. 1 doubles player with six Grand Slam titles to his name.

While the visitors' last outing in September ended in a 1-3 loss to Argentina in September 2025, the home side, on the other hand, stunned ninth-seeded Switzerland 3-1 in a World Group I tie to make it to the Qualifiers here. Led by Sumit Nagal and Dhakshineswar Suresh, India secured a win against a European side in Europe for the first time since 1993.

Though the travelling Dutch will be wary of this fact, the 2024 runners-up and the current sixth-ranked Davis Cup team are confident of getting the job done despite their top two players -- Tallon Griekspoor (world No. 29) and Botic van de Zandschulp (67) -- missing in the squad.

"The ATP 500 scheduled next week back home in Rotterdam is obviously the main reason for them not to be here. A long schedule follows after this, so they decided not to play this one. They are individual players. We have no contract with them that you have to play. So it's 100% their call. Of course, I want my best players to play for the national team. But tennis is an individual sport, and they play on a demanding Tour. If they decide not to play, they don't decide to play.

"But see, Jesper (de Jong ranked 88) said, 'listen no matter what, I'm playing Davis Cup in India'. So that's good and he is ready. He has got a main draw wildcard for Rotterdam, so he flies back to Amsterdam Sunday midnight, has a good two days to prepare before playing his first round there. So, no problem," Haarhuis remarked.

While all eyes will be on 25-year-old Jong, who spearheads the Dutch campaign, another youngster, Guy den Ouden (23 years, WR 162), will be the second singles player. Doubles specialists David Pel and Sander Arends, ranked 29 and 40 respectively, are set to pair up on the same side of the court.

Landing in the country a good four days before the start of the two-day contest on February 7, Haarhuis said it gives his team enough time to get used to the altitude, bounce and speed.

"Yes, focus is on our own strengths," he asserted while continuing to keep a close watch on the Indians on court.

Nagal back on court

A day after the Indian camp fretted about Sumit Nagal's fitness, the top-ranked Indian took to the courts here at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium for a training session.

Monitoring a hip strain Nagal sustained in Japan last month, captain Rohit Rajpal on Tuesday said that the physios were at work to get the 28-year-old match-ready by Saturday.

Ten clubs confirm participation for I-League starting February 21

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ten teams have confirmed participation in the truncated season of the I-League 2025-26, the country's second-tier competition, starting February 21, according to sources.

Out of the 10 clubs, eight have paid their contribution of around Rs 20 lakh each towards the total cost of the delayed league. The deadline for making the payment was February 2.

The eight clubs which have made the payments are Diamond Harbour, Real Kashmir, Gokulam Kerala, Rajasthan United, Dempo SC, Namdhari FC, Shillong Lajong, Sreenidi Deccan.

Diamond Harbour of West Bengal and Chanmari FC of Mizoram were promoted from the I-League second division 2024-25.

Goa's Churchill Brothers are almost certain not to compete in the I-League. They were initially announced as last edition I-League champions and promoted to the ISL. But the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) later ruled that Inter Kashi were the champions, and the Varanasi-based club was subsequently promoted to the ISL. Churchill had knocked the doors of the Delhi HC against the AIFF, and the case is still pending.

Sports bodies should not be led by non-experts: SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the management of sports bodies by non-experts, saying that cricket associations should be led by retired cricketers rather than individuals who "do not even know how to handle a bat".

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi refused to tinker with the Bombay High Court order that had stayed the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) elections, originally scheduled for January 6, citing allegations of "nepotism and favouritism".

The bench was hearing pleas including the one filed by the MCA against the high court order.

During the proceedings, the CJI questioned the sudden surge in the MCA's membership.

Pointing to the records, the bench noted that the association had 164 members between 1986 and 2023, but saw a massive influx of new members immediately thereafter. "From 1986 to 2023, you had 164 members, and from 2023 onwards, you made a bumper draw?" the CJI asked.

Representing the petitioners, including the MCA and NCP-SP MLA Rohit Pawar, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi submitted that a committee headed by a retired judge had overseen the process, rejecting 48 members while inducing others.

The CJI emphasised that if the association wanted to expand its membership to 300, those slots should have been reserved for renowned, retired international players.

"This is one country where outstanding cricketers are there; those who have retired were the best in line," the CJI said.

"Who are you bringing? Those who do not even know the game... do not even know how to handle a bat. Don't make us express our sentiments too much on what is happening," he said.

Manu to test her preparation at Asian Championships

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

After a rather quiet 2025 following her Paris Olympics double medal glory in 2024, Manu Bhaker says she is brimming with confidence to kick-start her season this year. AP

Indian shooters will have their task cut out this season as the Asian Games, World Championships -- along with Olympic quota spots -- are slated among the key events.

Thankfully, they will have an early chance in the year to test their efficiency as a strong team of 24 senior shooters, including pistol star Manu Bhaker, will compete at their home turf at the Asian Rifle/ Pistol Championships in New Delhi from February 4.

The team was picked on merit as the best of Indian shooting squared off in the selection trials, which also takes into account the past performances at international events as well, to show their preparedness for the season ahead.

With the inter-competition done, the focus now shifts to the biggest shooting star and double Paris Olympics medallist Manu Bhaker, who had very few individual medals (10m pistol silver at the Cairo World Cup being the biggest) to her name after the highs of 2024. The 23-year-old Haryana girl, however, is brimming with confidence, seeing the opportunity in the upcoming event in front of the home crowd.

"The end goal for me surely remains the 2028 Olympics," said Manu during a virtual interaction with select media outlets. "With major events in play, including quota places for the Olympics, I am looking forward to progressive growth, that's why this competition is crucial in understanding where we stand in terms of shape and technique, and if there are any concerns, we would get time to work on them. So it's a crucial event in terms of analytics."

The bigger challenge for Manu would be to peak twice later in the year with the Asian Games (in Japan in September-October) and World Championships (in Qatar in November) being slated back-to-back. The shooter, who has seen several ups and downs in her career, is hoping that a quality training session with her Dronacharya awardee coach Jaspal Rana would help her prepare well.

"It's not in my hands that I peak as many times as possible in a year so the game plan is always to try my best and focus on what is on my hands because we can't control everything. That's why the focus will be on the quality of the training, rest is obviously in the hands of god," she said.

Looking beyond Manu, India are among the strong nations at the Asian level with giants such as China and South Korea dominating the field. To understand their dominance, China bagged 15 gold while Korea took six at the last Asian Championships in Kazakhstan despite not fielding their strongest squad. India, on the other hand, made the most of the absence by grabbing 14 gold to finish ahead of Korea at second place.

The likes of Anjum Moudgil, Rhythm Sangwan, Esha Singh among several others will be also be gunning for glory in front of their home fans. The talented 22-year-old Rhythm, who has four World Championships medals to her name (all in team medals, including a gold in 2023), is yet to bag a senior individual medal at the Worlds and may look to change that this year, especially with quota places to be up for grabs.

Rhythm, however, is not getting ahead of herself and focussing on her "process" of one competition at a time.

"My approach is to take it one step at a time," said Rhythm. "So, currently I'm just focusing on the Asian championship. We'll see it as we move forward. I just want to focus on my process. I believe that if we stick to it we can achieve the results. As they say 'focus on the process, and the results will follow'."

(Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships will be aired Live on FanCode.)

Sunderland rout hapless Burnley to boost Europe hopes

SUNDERLAND, AFP: Sunderland cruised to a 3-0 win against Burnley on Monday to boost their hopes of qualifying for Europe and push the Premier League strugglers closer to relegation.

Chemsdine Talbi

Regis Le Bris' side took the lead through an own goal from Burnley defender Axel Tuanzebe early in the first half at the Stadium of Light.

Senegal midfielder Habib Diarra increased Sunderland's stranglehold before the break with his first league goal since arriving from Strasbourg last year.

Chemsdine Talbi's second half rocket ensured Sunderland climbed to eighth place to maintain their impressive return to the top-flight.

The Black Cats are unbeaten at home in the Premier League since winning promotion from the Championship last season. They can dream of securing a place in Europe next season after a second win in their last three league games.

Second-bottom Burnley are 11 points from safety and winless in 15 games as they slump towards an immediate return to the second tier. A defeat against third-bottom West Ham on Saturday would be another huge blow to Burnley's faint survival hopes.

Services meet Railways in semifinals

SILAPATHAR (ASSAM), PTI: Kerala, Punjab, Services and Railways won their respective quarterfinal matches to enter the semifinals of the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy on Tuesday.

Services will take on Railways in the first semifinal at the Silapathar Stadium on Thursday while Kerala face Punjab in the second semifinal at the Dhakuakhana Stadium the same day.

Services beat defending champions West Bengal 3-2 on penalties after a goalless draw in 120 minutes.

Kerala beat hosts Assam 3-0 with goals from Manoj M (17th minute), Muhammed Ajsal (44th) and Aboobacker Dilshad (90+2). Punjab also got the better of Tamil Nadu 4-1 in penalty shootout.

LIV Golf to get world ranking points

LONDON, AP: LIV Golf received a boost on the eve of starting its fifth season when the Official World Golf Ranking approved the Saudi-funded league to receive ranking points for the first time.

The unanimous decision by the OWGR board on Tuesday came with some conditions, however.

Points will be distributed only for the top 10 and ties, compared with other tours that have smaller fields and leave out only the bottom finishers. Considering that LIV Golf has been without ranking points since the league launched in 2022, its strength of field will be lower.

Tyrrell Hatton at No. 22 and Bryson DeChambeau at No. 33 are the only LIV players in the top 50, with five others among the top 100. Jon Rahm is at No. 97.

But the decision is effective immediately as LIV Golf begins on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia.

Akash 'tricks for Warriors

BENGALURU, DHNS: D Akash netted a hat-trick as Bangalore Warriors FC edged Empire FC 3-2 in the BDFA B Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Akash opened the scoring in the eighth minute via a penalty to hand his side a 1-0 lead in the first half. He doubled the advantage in the 63rd minute, but Vishnuprasad K and Sachin Kumar S scored two goals in two minutes as Empire FC drew level.

Results: Bangalore Warriors FC: 3 (D Akash 8th, 63rd, 78th) bt Empire FC: 2 (Vishnuprasad K 73rd, Sachin Kumar S 74th); Juno FC: 5 (Shougaijam Shreekant Singh 20th, 56th, Chakresh Acharya 30th, Satwik Sreedhara 47th, Abhayudh Madhusudhan 74th) bt Revive FC: 0; KSP FC: 2 (Nitish K 12th, Prathap Chandan 72nd) bt Young Blues Elite FC: 1 (Arvindh C 72nd); Bangalore Gunners FC: 1 (Rahul M 17th) drew with Infinite Belagavi

Indian shooters aim for a strong start

NEW DELHI, PTI: Double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker and world champion Samrat Rana will be among a host of shooting stars aiming to give India a strong start at the Asian Championship for Rifle/Pistol here on Wednesday.

World Cup Final champion Suruchi Singh and Esha Singh will also be in the fray on the opening day at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges here.

Four finals will be held on Wednesday -- the senior men's and women's 10m air pistol, along with the Junior and Youth men's 10m air pistol events.

Suruchi Singh

Suruchi Singh and Samrat Rana will be few of the favourites to win the gold along with Manu Bhaker and Esha Singh in the women's event.

World No. 4 and world silver medallist Ho Ching Shing of Hong Kong lines up as one of the favourites for the women's 10m air pistol. She has made the continental final on four occasions, winning silver in 2019.

A dark horse for a medal could be Cheng Yen-Ching of Chinese Taipei, ranked 16th in the world. The 19-year-old had a solid performance of 25th in her debut World Championship and even finished fifth on her ISSF World Cup debut in Munich. Thu Vinh Trinh of Vietnam, a two-time Asian bronze medallist and two-time Olympic finalist, will also feature.

Samrat will lead the Indian men's side along with world No. 2 and world bronze medallist Varun Tomar and Sharvan Kumar.

Gukesh to play in Norway Chess

OSLO, PTI

Reigning world champion Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Norway Chess tournament here in May, joining a star-studded field which includes world number one and defending champion Magnus Carlsen.

With Gukesh confirming participation, the May 25 to June 5 event will be one of the world's strongest chess tournaments. The event is also set to shift from its traditional base in Stavanger to Oslo.

The Indian star, who had finished third in the Open section last year, will come to Oslo as the youngest undisputed world champion in the history of the game.

D Gukesh

"I am really happy to take part in Norway Chess again, fighting against a very strong field as always, and looking forward to all the exciting games," Gukesh said in a media release.

In 2024, Gukesh won the Candidates Tournament before securing the world title

Another Indian star R Praggnanandhaa has also confirmed his participation in the prestigious tournament.

In the women's section, Indian Grandmaster and World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh will make her debut at Norway Chess, becoming the youngest player to compete in the women's tournament since its launch in 2024.

No Indian has ever won the prestigious tournament so far.

Pankaj Advani

Advani marches into Asian Snooker final

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reigning champion Pankaj Advani outclasses Iran's Shahin Sabzi 4-0 to storm into the final of the Asian Snooker Championships in Doha on Tuesday.

In the title clash on Wednesday, the Indian ace takes on the winner of the other semifinal between Amir Sarkhosh of Iran and China's Deng Haohui. Sarkhosh was up 3-2 when reports last came in.

Although the semifinal never rose to any great heights, Advani, a three-time champion, was the dominant player. His inexperienced rival, who threw caution to the wind and played one too many attacking shots, played right into Advani's hands.

Keerthana shines

In the women's section, a 10-red event, India's Keerthana Pandian overcame Hong Kong's Wan ka Kai 2-1 for her second straight win in Group D.

The Kolar girl was slow to start with, losing the opening frame of the best-of-three-frame league clash. Once she found her rhythm and range, Keerthana was a different player.

Results (Indians unless mentioned):
Men: Semis: Pankaj Advani bt Shahin Sabzi (Irn) 4-0 (77 (50) -32, 64-13, 73 (56) -50, 74-18).
U-21: Group F: Shahab Ali Esmaeli (Irn) bt Jabez Naveen Kumar 3-2 (72-20, 47-59, 30-54, 60-35, 48-32).
Group H: Cao Zeyi (Chn) bt Rahul Williams 3-0 (64-36, 66-38, 69-38).
Women: Group A: Narantuya Bayarsaikhan (Mgl) bt Aanya Patel 2-1 (59-21, 36-53, 48-29).
Group B: Anupama Ramachandran bt Setayesh Amirazimi (Irn) 2-1 (34-38, 59-13, 72 (72) -0).
Group D: Keerthana Pandian bt Wan Ka Kai (HK) 2-1 (35-40, 51 (31) -24, 42-22); So Man Yan (HK) bt Snenthra Babu 2-0 (47-21, 50-43).

IN BRIEF

Former K'taka player no more

▸ Shri Rajagopal, a former state player, who represented Karnataka in various National Championships, passed away due to bad health on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Akshat, Drishtee champs

▸ Akshat Sureka and Drishtee Ghosh were crowned champions in the under-19 Open and girls' category, respectively, at the Bangalore Urban District Tournament for U11/U19 age categories organised by BUDCA in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The tournament also served as selection trials for the upcoming Karnataka State Chess tournaments.
Results: Under-19: Open: Akshat Sureka (6 points), 1; Chinmay Kowshik (6 pts) 2.
Girls: Drishtee Ghosh (4.5 pts), 1; Sinthia Sarkar (4.5 pts), 2.
U-11: Boys: Ayaan Phutane (7.5 pts), 1; Sragvidha S (7 pts), 2.
Girls: Mahee Dutta (6 pts), 1; Dedeepya Bavurapalli (6 pts), 2.

Akshay fires 60 to take lead

▸ Indian golfer Akshay Sharma shot a phenomenal nine-under 60 on Tuesday to take the first-round lead at the Rs 1.5 crore SECL Chhattisgarh Open, the DP World PGTI's season-opener, reports PTI from Naya Raipur.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

U-19 WC Semifinal: India vs Afghanistan **(1:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

ICC T20 World Cup warm-up: India vs South Africa **(1:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

MCC makes final over mandatory in multi-day cricket

Lord's-based body announces 73 changes to come into effect from Oct

LONDON, PTI

As many as 73 changes in laws of cricket, including mandatory completion of the final over in case of fall of a wicket in multi-day matches, have been announced by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), with the amendments set to come into effect from October this year.

The MCC said the 'new edition of the Laws of Cricket', the first since 2022, has been drafted in to ensure laws are 'up to date and fit for the modern game and that they should be as inclusive as possible'. Announcing the changes on its website, the MCC said the final over in a multi-day match will have to be completed if a wicket has fallen, as not doing so takes "the drama out of the game".

"It was felt unfair that, if a fielding side takes a wicket in the final over of the day, the batting side does not have to send out a new batter," MCC said.

"This doesn't save time (which is the case at lunch and tea) as the remaining balls need to be made up the next day, and it takes the drama out of the game, while letting the incoming batter off the hook – at a time when the conditions are often more favourable to bowling."

"The new change means that the final over of the day will be bowled fully, even if a wicket falls during it (assuming conditions remain fit)," it added.

The MCC, along with current and former women's players at its World Cricket Connects, has worked with manufacturers to set new limits and names for balls in junior as well as women's cricket.

"The balls are now Size 1, Size 2 and Size 3, and while Size 1 (traditionally the men's ball) has not changed, the margins are now uniform, making for three distinct categories of balls," the MCC said.

The MCC legalised used of laminated bats for "open age cricket rather than just junior cricket" in an attempt to slow the rising costs of bats around the world. The wicket-keepers will no longer be penalised for having their gloves in front of the stumps when the bowler runs up.

"Wicket-keepers cannot come in front of the stumps to collect the ball until it has passed the striker's wicket or made contact with their bat or person – that remains the case," MCC said.

"But in a DRS age, umpires were noticing that some keepers move level with, or in front of, the stumps while the bowler is running up – technically a No-ball, but not something that would give them any advantage."

"The Law has now changed so that it is only after the ball is released that the wicket-keeper must be wholly behind the stumps. This brings the wording in line with a fielder's position," it added.

The use of laminated bats -- made by bonding two or more pieces of woods -- is now permitted in "open age cricket" to meet the rising costs of bats around the world.

KEY CHANGES

- **A significant change impacting multi-day cricket will now see play continuing even if a wicket falls in the final over of the day. The over will be completed if conditions permit.**
- The use of laminated bats has been legalised in open-age cricket, rather than only in junior cricket, as part of an attempt to slow the rising costs of bats.
- **Amendments to balls which will comprise three sizes - Size 1, Size 2 and Size 3.**
- The 'Bunny hop' catch, which had led to some spectacular fielding, has been removed. Fielders going outside the boundary can touch the ball only once while airborne, and, having done so, should be grounded within the boundary for the rest of the duration of the delivery. Failure to do so will result in a boundary being declared.
- **Another key change is also in overthrow. A misfield - whether an attempt to stop the ball or pass it to another fielder close to the boundary - will not be treated as an overthrow.**
- A wicketkeeper will no longer be penalised for having their gloves in front of the stumps when the bowler runs up.

CRICKET WPL

Delhi storm into fourth straight final

Three-time runners-up outplay GG to set up title clash vs RCB

VADODARA, PTI

Delhi Capitals put up an all-round display to extend their remarkable consistency, storming into a fourth consecutive Women's Premier League final with a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Gujarat Giants in the Eliminator here on Tuesday.

Opting to bowl, the Delhi Capitals Women bowlers restricted Gujarat Giants Women to 168 for seven before Shafali Verma (31 off 21 balls) and Lizelle Lee (43 off 24) laid the foundation for the chase with a brisk 89-run opening stand, helping overhaul the target in 15.4 overs.

Chasing the target, Delhi were off to a flying start as Shafali and Lee went on the offensive, making full use of the field restrictions. The duo hammered 15 boundaries and a six to race to 89 without loss, threatening to make a mockery of the chase.

But just when the two big-hitters looked set to bat Gujarat out of the contest, leg-spinner Georgia Wareham (2/28) engineered a brief fightback, dismissing both openers in the same over.

Delhi Capitals' Lizelle Lee starred in her side's win over Gujarat Giants with a 24-ball 43 in Vadodora on Tuesday. PTI

However, the setback did little to derail Delhi's momentum as Laura Wolvaardt (32 not out) and skipper Jemimah Rodrigues (41) showed composure and class through the middle overs.

With the pressure off the scoreboard, the pair took its time to settle in before opening up, striking boundaries with ease to put the chase firmly back on track. Veteran all-rounder Marizanne Kapp hit the winning runs for the Capitals, who will take one Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final on Thursday.

Earlier, Gujarat Giants rode on a composed unbeaten half-century from Beth Mooney to post a competitive total. The Australian opener struck 62 not out off 51 balls, laced with six boundaries, holding the innings together after the Giants were put under severe pressure early by the Delhi bowlers.

She found crucial support from fellow Australian Wareham (35), with the duo adding a brisk 61 runs for the fifth wicket. Mooney then stitched together another valuable 39-run stand with Kashvee Gautam (18).

Brief scores: Gujarat Giants: 168/7 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 62 n.o., Georgia Wareham 35; Chinelle Henry 3-35, Nandani Sharma 2-44) lt to Delhi Capitals: 169/3 in 15.4 overs (Lizelle Lee 43, Shafali Verma 31, Laura Wolvaardt 32 n.o., Jemimah Rodrigues 41; Georgia Wareham 2-28) by 7 wkts. **PoM:** Jemimah Rodrigues

Marsh offers dead bat on T20 WC controversies

LAHORE, PTI: Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh fielded queries on Pakistan's boycott of its T20 World Cup match against India and Bangladesh's removal from the tournament but refused to comment on both the controversies, insisting that his sole focus is on winning the showpiece.

Marsh was facing the Pakistani media after his team was handed a 0-3 T20 series whitewash by the home side here last night.

"I don't have any comment on that at this point. We are going to the World Cup to just focus on what we are doing, we will let that stuff take care of itself," he responded when asked about his thoughts on Pakistan's boycott of the India game on February 15 in Colombo.

The journalists then pressed him on Bangladesh being ousted from the event for refusing to travel to India. He offered a dead bat to that query as well.

'PCB may face legal action by JioStar'

KARACHI/ NEW DELHI, PTI

The ICC has warned the Pakistan Cricket Board that it faces the prospect of legal action from T20 World Cup's official broadcasters JioStar for boycotting its February 15 game against India, a PCB source said on Tuesday.

Pakistan decided to boycott the match in Colombo on February 15 on instructions of their government but haven't yet officially specified the reasons to the ICC.

There is a possibility that the ICC will withhold the entire annual revenue share of Pakistan, which is around USD 35 million and pay the broadcasters from that purse.

A PCB source informed that although chairman Mohsin Naqvi had taken advice from the board's legal experts before briefing PM Shehbaz Sharif on the issue last week, the board is bracing for some serious consequences.

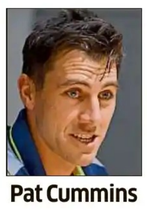
"If Pakistan doesn't relent and play against India, not only will they face financial penalties, perhaps a lawsuit from broadcasters but also any efforts to go to the ICC Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) are likely to fail," a PCB source told PTI.

ICC's DRC is an internal committee which doesn't hear appeals against the decisions made by its own board.

"The PCB might face problems regardless of their government directive to not play India as they are playing all their matches at a neutral venue (Sri Lanka) as per their wishes and not in India," another PCB source said.

Cummins prioritises Tests over T20s

MELBOURNE, PTI



Pat Cummins

Australia pace spearhead Pat Cummins says his injury-forced withdrawal from the T20 World Cup was also driven by a desire to be completely fit for the upcoming Test season in which he wants to play all the games.

The Test and ODI captain of his team was ruled out of the T20 World Cup as he failed to recover from a back injury and was replaced by Ben Dwarshuis.

Cummins has been dealing with the back injury since Australia's tour of the the West Indies last July and although he is feeling "really good" right now, he decided to skip the tournament starting February 7 after a scan.

"It was really unfortunate. I feel pretty good, just a minor setback and just ran out of time really. I'll rest up for a few weeks and go from there," Cummins was quoted as saying by the 'Australian Associated Press'.

"We knew after the (Adelaide) Test match we were going to need somewhere between four and eight weeks to let the bone settle right down before then building back up. Initially, we thought it might only be four weeks, because I was feeling really good, but just had a follow-up scan.

"They thought it probably needs another couple of weeks, so the timeline just became a bit too tight."

T20 WORLD CUP: GROUP C PREVIEW

England eye solace as Windies target redemption

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Dismissive of criticism, constant disappointment, and vague responses were among England's features during their 4-1 Ashes humbling Down Under.

While they managed to block out the noise under coach Brendon McCullum and director Rob Key, their miseries did not end there.

England's woes aren't restricted to Test cricket alone. Their qualification for the ODI World Cup in 2027 hangs in the balance as they sit eighth in the rankings, with West Indies and Bangladesh breathing down their neck for automatic qualification. And they have themselves to blame for having won just four games in 12 bilateral ODI games.

However, they have an opportunity to find a sense of calm amid the chaos with the T20 World Cup starting this week. To their credit, England's T20I side is among the best on paper in the 20-team competition, and their fans can expect them to go all the way.

Destructive openers Phil Salt and Jos Buttler are No. 2 and No. 4 in the world and have locked themselves at the top, with Jacob Bethell and Harry Brook set to explode in the middle-order.

Sam Curran broke down the selection doors with a dream run in The Hundred, while Will Jacks' versatility adds depth to the side as a third-spin option. They have also quietly strengthened their primary spin attack with Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson, while the fast bowling will be led by Jofra Archer.

At a time when England are craving consistency, an all-firing T20 line-up is what they need and have to replicate their 2022 T20 World Cup run.

The constant threat

West Indies remain a dangerous unit despite all the issues Caribbean cricket faces. In this period of turmoil, the Men in Maroon have won three white-ball ICC events -- 2004 Champions Trophy and T20 World Cups in 2012 and 2016.

Record in T20 Internationals

	England	West Indies	Scotland	Nepal	Italy
Matches	216	245	109	112	39
Won	114	102	49	65	25
Lost	90	128	55	41	13
No result	10	12	4	3	1

West Indies are also guided by the man who was the captain when they won two World Cups, the only side to do so apart from England. Daren Sammy is the head coach now and he knows a thing or two about turning adversity into opportunity.

Since the last T20 World Cup at home, they have won only 14 of their last 43 games. The men from the Caribbean lost a T20I series against South Africa (2-1), suffered defeats to Afghanistan (2-1), New Zealand (3-1). Even Nepal beat them 2-1.

And if they are looking to draw inspiration from their last ICC title, they will kick-off their campaign in the place where they were last crowned champions: Kolkata.

While West Indies might have 100 issues on and off the field, producing six-hitters has never been one of them. They are stacked with explosive batting power comprising Shimron Hetmyer, Johnson Charles, Romario Shepherd and Rovman Powell.

Jayden Seales and Shamar Joseph will carry a threat with the new ball, while spinners Gudakesh Motie and Akeal Hosein will hope to come good in sub-continent conditions.

Lucky losers

In 2021, Scotland defeated Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup, and in 2026, they replaced them as the highest-ranked team not to have qualified for the tournament. And by no means can they be taken lightly.

Similarly, Nepal's cricket might not be driven by world-class performances, but passion is in abundance. And that was seen in the last T20 World Cup when Texas seemed like Kathmandu. Having gained experience in pressure situations from the Nepal Premier League, they will be eager to step up and showcase their talent.

Italy and cricket usually don't go together in the same sentence. However, it will be in 2026, making their T20 World Cup debut.

Abhigyan Kundu has scored 199 runs in five matches for India in the ongoing Under-19 World Cup. X

In-form India start favourites against Afghanistan

HARARE, PTI: Unbeaten so far in the tournament, a confident and all-round India will be overwhelming favourites against Afghanistan in the semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup here on Wednesday.

India are the most successful team in the history of the event, having annexed the title five times (2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2022), followed by Australia, who have won the trophy four times.

Come Wednesday, India will look to take one step forward towards a record sixth title.

LIVE 1 PM STAR SPORTS NETWORK

India have had a great run in the tournament, having won all their five matches quite comfortably, including a 58-run win over arch-rivals Pakistan in the Super Six stage.

Afghanistan too has had a fairly good tournament, winning four out of their five games, their only loss coming against Sri Lanka by four wickets.

Going by form and overall composition, India will hold an edge over the Afghans in the knock-out game.

Wicket-keeper batter Abhigyan Kundu has been the star performer for India with the bat as the left-hander has so far amassed 199 runs from five games with two half centuries to his name. Big-hitting opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi (196 runs in five matches with 2 fifties) too has been in good form but the team management would want him to convert his half-centuries into three-figure scores.

All-rounder Vihaan Malhotra (172 runs from five games) is the other Indian batter to look out for. He struck the lone century (109 not out) against Zimbabwe in group stages.

Karnataka colts fall short of victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka fell agonisingly short of posting a resounding innings victory over Hyderabad in the under-14 boys' South Zone tournament at the ACA Academy in Vizianagaram.

After reducing Andhra to 8/1 at stumps on the opening day, Karnataka bowlers Krishna Kumar (4/45) and Ashith Sanjay Girish (3/23) scythed through the hosts' batting line-up to dismiss them for a paltry 186 in 55.5 overs.

Armed with a massive 216-run lead following their 402/3 decl in the first innings, Karnataka asked Andhra to follow on, and the hosts fumbled badly again. Krishna Kumar was at it again, bagging 2/14, while Ashith Sanjay Girish (2/14) and Aaryan Nagesh (2/15), too, bagged two wickets apiece.

Riding on the collective strong bowling show, Karnataka appeared heading towards a huge win, but Andhra held on grittily for a draw. Andhra were 95/7 when the day's proceedings ended.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 402/3 decl in 85 overs drew with Hyderabad: 186 all out in 55.3 overs (CV Chetan Aditya 25, P Vivaan Reddy 37, Varun Yadav 28; Ashith Sanjay Girish 3-23, Krishna Kumar 4-45) and 95/7 in 42 overs (Yuvan Srikanth Raj 29; Ashith Sanjay Girish 2-14, Krishna Kumar 2-29, Aaryan Nagesh 2-15).

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